

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

North Slope Borough Chambers
Utqiagvik, Alaska
February 15, 2018
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
Esther S. Hugo
Lee Kayotuk
Wanda Kippi
Steve Oomittuk
Robert Shears
Jerry Sikvayugak

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 2/15/2018)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know it's -- we try to get started early or on time, because I know we tend to be long-winded at times, and we can easily go -- take all day. I would like to see -- I think we have a quorum, and that we can acknowledge the rest of the Council members when they come in, if you guys want to get started.

Yeah. Eva, I think knowing that Wanda's going to call in here. Was that you, Wanda?

MS. PATTON: Did somebody just join us on teleconference. Okay.

Maybe I'll make one quick announcement. We're waiting for Wanda to join us. Just a reminder to everyone that's joined us on teleconference, please mute your phones either by pushing the mute button or star-six, that will mute your phone. If you want to address the Council, just push star-six, and you can talk again. That really helps with the background noise. And especially from folks calling in from offices, please don't put your phone on hold or pick up another call when you're on teleconference. That sends us off into elevator music land. So just if you get an incoming call when you're on teleconference, if you could just disconnect and call back in, that would be most helpful.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Eva and everybody.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, good morning, Wanda.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Wanda.

Thank you.

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1 MS. KIPPI: Good morning.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
4 we have everybody present that needs to be present now.
5 Eva, do we need to do a roll call for the second day?

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, if we can establish
8 that we have quorum, that would be good.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So did
11 you want to do the roll call, or what was the normal
12 procedure then?

13

14 MS. PATTON: I believe Wanda is our
15 secretary. Wanda, do you have the roster in front of
16 you, or I can do roll call from here.

17

18 MS. KIPPI: Yes, I can do that.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Get us
23 back in order there, Wanda.

24

25 MS. KIPPI: All right. Gordon Brower.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here. Good morning.

28

29 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Robert
30 Shears.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Robert
33 here.

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Wanda Kippi
36 is here.

37

38 Steve Oomittuk.

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

41

42 MS. KIPPI: Fredrick Neakok. I believe
43 he has been excused or no?

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, he's excused.
46 He was in Anaktuvuk under business.

47

48 MS. KIPPI: Okay. It got pretty quiet,
49 I couldn't hear anything for the moment.

50

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1 Jerry Sikvayugak?
2
3 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Here.
4
5 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Esther Hugo.
6
7 MS. HUGO: Here. Good morning.
8
9 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Esther. And
10 Lee Kayotuk.
11
12 MR. KAYOTUK: Here. Good morning.
13
14 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Rosemary
15 Ahtuanguaruak.
16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Good morning.
18
19 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Rosemary. I
20 believe we have a quorum.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madam
23 Secretary Wanda in Atqasuk.
24
25 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to go to
28 the next order of business. We are officially out of
29 recess and back in business. So if Madam Coordinator
30 Eva, if you could direct us into our next order of
31 business, maybe -- are we still on new business or are
32 we ready to do old business.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, we
35 concluded new business yesterday, so we're back to old
36 business, which the Council had confirmed that they'd
37 like to have caribou updates for the Western Arctic
38 Caribou Herd prior to consideration of the Unit 23
39 proposal again. So we have Ryan Klimstra here, and he
40 does have a PowerPoint, and the video screens aren't
41 lined up so well for the Council, so it's easier for
42 the Council, you can sit in the theater seats to be
43 able to observe the presentation. And you can always
44 come up to the mic at the front desk for any questions.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. We'll
47 give the floor to ADF&G, Ryan Klimstra to go ahead and
48 get the caribou up date going.
49
50

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1 It would have been great if you were
2 here, Wanda, because sometimes these caribou updates
3 and the PowerPoints are pretty important visuals, you
4 know.

5
6 MS. KIPPI: Yes, I wish I were. But
7 I'll be listening.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll try to let Ryan
10 describe each page so you can have a very good visual.

11
12 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan, you have the
15 floor.

16
17 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Gordon. I'm
18 going to give it just a moment for these screens to
19 load here.

20
21 CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'll sit.

22
23 (Pause -- setting up PowerPoint)

24
25 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. Again my name is
26 Ryan Klimstra with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
27 I'm going to talk about caribou today, two herds in
28 particular. The Western Arctic herd, and the Teshekpuk
29 Caribou Herd. I'm going to focus on those. And I also
30 passed out a handout to you earlier, yesterday, with an
31 update on the Central Arctic Herd. Hopefully you had
32 time to review that.

33
34 Before we get too far down the road,
35 Region 5 has some news for you folks here in Barrow.
36 We have a new Barrow area biologist. So Carmen Daggett
37 who's sitting back here is going to be moving to Barrow
38 from Kotzebue probably later in May. She's lived and
39 worked in Kotzebue for quite some time now. I think
40 probably around five years. And, you know, we
41 anticipate some good things from Carmen. And, yeah, we
42 just want to share that with you and let you know that
43 we have succeeded in replacing -- or getting somebody
44 in this seat here. So hopefully that will help out
45 with the community or communities across the North
46 Slope.

47
48 So the general presentation outline,
49 we're going to talk about the Western Arctic Caribou
50

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1 Herd, the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, and then a little bit
2 about RC 907, the registration permit. So, you know,
3 this is almost the identical presentation that I gave
4 in November. So I don't anticipate there's going to be
5 a lot of discussion about things other than maybe the
6 photo census results are all very positive for these
7 two herds, and, you know, that's -- it was my
8 understanding that that was the wish of the Council is
9 to have an updated number so you could think about this
10 23 closure, and that's what I'm going to do, is I'm
11 just going to provide you with updated information on
12 the most recent photo census.

13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Ryan?

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes.

17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: On the changes in
19 the technique on the photo census, how did the
20 interpretation of that data, if you have clearer
21 pictures.....

22
23 REPORTER: Rosemary, could you come to
24 the mic? Sorry.

25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. We got a question
27 from Rosemary coming up here.

28
29 Hold on just a sec.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I have a question on
32 the way that -- the change in the way that the census
33 is being done with the improvements to the photo
34 censuses. How does that interpret the data results
35 when we had poorer resolution on the previous photo
36 censuses to the accuracy of what we're seeing, and how
37 much of the error or variable does that change in the
38 data that we're interpreting?

39
40 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Thanks for that
41 question, Rosemary, and if you'll just hold on for a
42 little bit, we'll get there. Hopefully I'll answer
43 that, and I haven't answered it by the end of the
44 presentation, remind me, and we'll talk about it some
45 more.

46
47 Okay. So we'll start out, you know,
48 we've all seen these slides just as of November. Just
49 as a reminder here on some of the seasonal ranges of
50

1 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

2
3 So again this is a refresher here. All
4 the vital rate, you know, indices that we collect
5 throughout the year were very positive for the Western
6 Arctic Herd. As you can see here, adult female
7 survival is around 84 percent. Yearling recruitment
8 was high. Calf survival high. Calf production high.
9 Body condition was great. Calf weights, you know, were
10 around 92 pounds. Again as you remember, this past
11 year when we were trying to weigh calves at Onion
12 Portage, the migration just wasn't coming through, so
13 we got a very small sample size there of three. And
14 the same for adults. But in general from what we're
15 hearing from hunters on the landscape, the condition of
16 the animals was good this past year.

17
18 And in October the herd composition, we
19 had 54 bulls for every 100 cows, which is also high,
20 and then 57 calves for every 100 cows, which is also
21 high. So those are all very positive things. And that
22 was.....

23
24 I just want to remind everybody, and if
25 you look back in previous meetings, these are the
26 messages that we've been sharing for the past two years
27 for this herd and for the Teshekpuk.

28
29 So we were able to accomplish a 2017
30 photo census. These photos were taken this past
31 summer. The weather and the caribou aggregation
32 conditions for the Teshekpuk -- or, excuse me, for the
33 Western Arctic Herd were not quite ideal; however, the
34 camera equipment that has been upgraded, you know, may
35 have increased the accuracy of our photos, and also
36 allowed us to take photos under tougher light
37 conditions than normally we would not be able to
38 operate.

39
40 The photos have been counted. So
41 that's where we left off in November. That's about
42 where we were. And so now we have a number. So for
43 the Western Arctic Herd, we've gone from around 200,000
44 animals to approximately 260,000.

45
46 Now, the two differences here I want to
47 point out right away. So we have a minimum count and
48 then a rivest estimate. And you've probably heard
49 Lincoln talk about these plenty of times before, but

50

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1 the minimum count is the number of caribou that we
2 physically counted, you know, on a computer from the
3 photos. We know that there are 239,055 caribou. Now,
4 the rivest estimate is a statistical estimator that
5 essentially takes into account a bunch of information,
6 such as the number of collared animals, the number of
7 collars per group, the number of missing collars that
8 we're not able to find on the day of the photo census,
9 you know, the size of the group, and all those
10 different things, and then it calculates what it
11 thinks, you know, what there potentially could be on
12 the landscape, and that is 260,000 plus or minus 26,779
13 caribou.

14
15 So that's in our mind, and hopefully in
16 your mind, too, these are good things. Right? This is
17 good news in terms of, you know, all the users and --
18 of caribou out on the landscape, this is good news.

19
20 So again here is -- you've seen this
21 particular graph many times. This is the abundance of
22 the Western Arctic Herd through time. And there over
23 on the end we've got that 260,000 caribou. The blue
24 dots on this particular graph are the rivest estimates,
25 and the red X is the minimum population count. And, of
26 course, those bars are our confidence intervals. And
27 as you can see, the minimum population falls within the
28 confidence interval, and that makes perfect sense for
29 this year. Excuse me.

30
31 So again you saw this in November as
32 well, and this is just -- I wanted just to provide this
33 again for the things you're about to talk about
34 regarding the Unit 23 closure. This just represents
35 harvest from 1998 through 2015.

36
37 And then additionally, something new
38 over this past year is the 2017 calf survival study.
39 This is something that the communities and Unit 23 and
40 in the region that Western Arctic caribou roam, you
41 know, they asked for this, and we have done it. Or
42 we're working on it.

43
44 So in June of 2017 we collared 78
45 calves with the Western Arctic Herd. So there's 70
46 initial captures plus eight redeployments in the first
47 week. So those redeployments are either collars fell
48 off or that calf was predated or something along those
49 lines. So the mortalities on the calving grounds

50

1 equals 18, about 77 percent survival. Cause of
2 mortality as you can see there. We've got brown bear,
3 golden eagle, abandonment or drowning, in that order.
4

5 So post calving ground survival, which
6 is kind of interesting, you know, so once they have
7 kind of dispersed from the calving grounds, you know --
8 and presently -- and this may be a little outdated.
9 This is the last time we were able to fly these, when
10 the weather allowed was back in October. So at that
11 time there's 51 animals were still alive. That's 65
12 percent survival. And of the mortalities that occurred
13 post-calving, again we had brown bear, golden eagle,
14 wolf, two unknown, and three at this time unable to
15 retrieve or determine the cause of death.
16

17 So a summary for the Western Arctic
18 Herd caribou. So this recent decline that we were all
19 extremely concerned in, we're confident this has
20 stabilized if not reversed, you know. And there are
21 still a lot of good science biologically out there with
22 those caribou that we've been collecting throughout the
23 year.
24

25 And, you know, we'll report in the
26 spring what the over-winter survival is. You know, of
27 course, that Western Arctic herd calf survival study is
28 on track. We'll continue that next year.
29

30 And then we still need harvest data.
31 And I'll elaborate on that once we get through the
32 Teshekpuk Herd. And then also I'll address more of
33 Rosemary's question here, but I just want to get
34 through both herds first.
35

36 Okay. So the Teshekpuk Caribou
37 overview. Again here is a picture you all are very
38 familial with. It's the seasonal ranges of the
39 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.
40

41 So other biological data for this herd,
42 you know, these are those vital rates that we collect
43 all year long. And there's been two years since the
44 most recent photo census, but I've just reported over
45 the past year. So these are all very, very positive,
46 encouraging things. And this has been the second year
47 in row, I'm talking about 2017, where we've been
48 collecting these positive, encouraging signs.
49
50

1 So adult female survival is high for
2 Teshekpuk Herd. And the yearling recruitment was about
3 average this past year. Even weights were about
4 average, and calf production was high. So those are
5 all very good things for us, the Teshekpuk Herd.

6
7 We weren't able to accomplish a
8 composition survey this past fall due to weather and
9 other things, but in 2016 we had 28 bulls for 100 cows.
10 I put low on there, and that's just, you know, low
11 based on, you know, long-term average. And it's not
12 even really terribly low. You know, low's maybe not
13 even a good descriptor. 28 bulls for 100 cows, caribou
14 biologists would argue that's plenty of bulls on the
15 landscape to get the job done. In terms of hunter
16 satisfaction, that may be a different issue.

17
18 So 48 calves for 100 cows, that's also
19 a very positive metric that we collected.

20
21 So what does that mean for the census?
22 So if you'll recall, we were at around 40,000 animals
23 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. Well, our minimum
24 count this year was 56,255 animals. The Rivest
25 estimate was 55,614 animals plus or minus 6,000
26 animals.

27
28 So you might be wondering, well, how
29 can the minimum count be higher than the actual
30 estimate? And that occurs whenever you pick up a lot
31 of groups that don't have collars in them. So this
32 particular statistical estimator does not take into
33 account groups on the landscape that don't have collars
34 that you find, although when we're up there flying
35 around and tracking all these collars, you know,
36 there's over 100 collars on this herd right now, it's
37 not uncommon to, oop, there's 200 caribou over off the
38 right side of the plane that does not have a collar in
39 that group, and we add that to our minimum count to be
40 realistic here, but the Rivest estimator does not take
41 those into account. So that's why it seems a little
42 bit lower there. But I want to point out that the
43 minimum count is within the confidence intervals of the
44 Rivest estimate, as you can see here in this particular
45 figure that you've seen many, many times before. So
46 that minimum count and the Rivest estimate are real
47 close to one another, so that's good, positive news for
48 the Teshekpuk Herd.

1 So summary for the Teshekpuk Herd. It
2 is safe to say that the Teshekpuk Herd is not declining
3 or stable. It is growing. We are confident that it is
4 growing. There are still good signs biologically that
5 we're collecting, you know. This spring, as long as we
6 continue to have these positive biological signs, it
7 will be a third year in a row of that, of, you know,
8 good information that we're getting that, you know,
9 lends itself to herd growth or just a positive phase in
10 this herd.

11
12 So we still need harvest data. You
13 know, the reason why I include that on both of these
14 summaries is for many different reasons. The harvest
15 data is something that, you know, we have noticed that
16 communities across the North Slope are interested in.
17 Folks want to know who's harvesting, how many are
18 harvested, where is harvest occurring, you know, who
19 makes up that harvest. Well, we want to provide that,
20 you know, and that's art of the reason why we
21 implemented RC 907.

22
23 And I know, you know, the gut feeling
24 for a lot of folks may be, well, hey, man, you know,
25 these two herds have kind of started to rebound. You
26 know, why is it important to have harvest data now?
27 And, you know, that's an okay feeling to have, but, you
28 know, I think it goes along the mind set of, you know,
29 when is it time to improve on things? You know, it's
30 not when your hair is on fire and you're running around
31 screaming. It's when you're in a good state, you know.
32 And so we're looking at this as a real good opportunity
33 to continue down a road that we've already started, you
34 know, making really good progress on, you know.

35
36 And some of the things that this
37 harvest data with this RC 907 permit can help address
38 are other issues that go in line with harvest. Things
39 such as user conflict. You know, with this harvest
40 data, we will have a better idea of temporal and
41 spatial components to harvest that will -- that might
42 help address, you know, what's really going on with
43 user conflict issues. You know, the timing of harvest
44 is really important.

45
46 And then something that gets brought up
47 quite a bit, you know, that Gordon brings up, and I
48 know Harry brings up, is, you know, the ANS, the
49 combined ANS for both the Teshekpuk and the Western
50

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1 Arctic Herd. Well, this is another way to get at that,
2 on separating those things. If we don't understand
3 harvest, then we can't possibly separate ANS.

4
5 You know, I understand that the
6 registration permit is still a new thing, you know, and
7 we're still committed to working with residents and,
8 you know, getting the information out there, making the
9 permits available, and, you know, trying to make it as
10 easy as possible for them to report their harvest.

11
12 So what have we kind of learned so far
13 from the harvest data? Well, we're not even through
14 one regulatory year yet, so it's tough to say exactly
15 what we've learned other than we know in Unit 23 that a
16 lot of those communities that were reporting on the RC
17 900, they're still, you know -- or they were already
18 reporting with RC 900. They haven't really increased,
19 some of those villages. But, you know, other
20 communities are like in the ball game now. And so this
21 -- I just want to show these couple figures here on
22 what is possible, you know, like what Unit 23 is doing,
23 and what we can do here in 26A to aid and things.

24
25 So I'm going to move that chair just a
26 minute so you can see a little better.

27
28 Or maybe Eva's going to help me there.

29
30 Thank you, Eva.

31
32 So again I showed this in November, and
33 I just want this just to be a reminder for folks. So
34 previous to RC 907 there was something called RC 900
35 that was in place, and across the region where that was
36 required, which is Unit 26A, 23, 22, the range of the
37 Western Arctic Herd and Teshekpuk Herd, RC 900 we
38 distributed 1,032 of those. And Unit 22, they kind of
39 got out ahead of things, and saw that there was, you
40 know, a need for harvest data, and they implemented
41 something called RC 800 in 2016. And they really put
42 their feet on the ground and got out there and tried to
43 distribute this thing in hopes of gaining more data for
44 the Western Arctic Herd harvest in their area. Well,
45 23 and 26A, we were still on RC 900, but as you can
46 see, it went up. 1250.

47
48 And then now 2017, as of July 1st,
49 everybody was under these two similar permits. RC 800
50

1 and RC 907 are basically capturing the same thing.
2 Very similar. And all I've got on here is 1141. Well,
3 this number, I didn't have time to update this. This
4 was just as of early November. So this is really
5 encouraging, you know. This is a really encouraging
6 thing.

7
8 So again, to break it down for Unit 26A
9 and 23 in particular, let's remove 22 out of there, the
10 Nome area, so RC 900, in 2015 we had 551 of those out.
11 It went down a little bit in 2016 to 531. And then,
12 guess what, again early November, RC 907, we're already
13 exceeded what we were doing on an annual basis, and we
14 still have several months left. Lots of good time to
15 hunt caribou. So there's lots of time to get permits
16 still and report harvest.

17
18 Now, unfortunately the bulk of that was
19 Unit 23. so far in 26A there's been -- and this is
20 again was as of November, there's been 37 permits
21 distributed and 533 in Unit 23. So I think we've got
22 some room for improvement.

23
24 And, you know, I just want to address
25 that a little bit further. I know, you know, one thing
26 that we keep in mind here is that it can be difficult
27 to get a license of a permit in some of these villages.
28 And we've put a lot of effort into establishing
29 vendors, new vendors, in some of these villages, and
30 we've had quite a bit of success. But we've also
31 visited the villages more over this past year since
32 July -- or even pre-July 1st. We wanted to be there
33 before this even rolled out. You know, we visited
34 these villages more in the past, you know, six months,
35 eight months, than we have in years. And it's been a
36 good response from the communities, and we've really
37 appreciated the participation of folks and, you know,
38 we're looking to continue that in the future.

39
40 Now, to get back to kind of what
41 Rosemary was asking about, the differences between, you
42 know, the digital photo census and the film photo
43 census. That's a very good question, you know, in
44 terms of what are those differences. And at this time,
45 I don't know that we know how to get at those
46 differences specifically. What we do know is that all
47 these vital rate indices that we have been collecting
48 kind of match up with what this new photo census gave
49 us in terms of the numbers. Now, you know, I will not
50

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1 sit and -- no one from Fish and Game will tell you that
2 we have not added new caribou because of the new
3 digital census. Everyone understands that we -- you
4 know, these photos are clearer, you know. We're able
5 to somewhat tell the difference between adults and
6 calves, like a pretty good -- you know, I'd say that's
7 one of the huge things. And then also we're able to
8 take these photos under varying light conditions, and
9 we don't have the problems of the shadows. We don't
10 have the problems that we were suffering from with the
11 film system.

12
13 So that's a very good question, you
14 know, on what these differences are and what does that
15 mean. Right now we don't know, but we're looking into
16 it, you know. We understand that that's a thing, that,
17 hey, there's some differences there. And how to
18 quantify those differences, that's still in the works,
19 you know. But we just wanted people to know that we're
20 acknowledging that, and we're also acknowledging the
21 fact that we want the public to acknowledge, you know,
22 that the story we've been telling, you know, for the
23 past two years about these herds, you know, kind of
24 fits to these new estimates that we got. And, you
25 know, we feel confident about it.

26
27 And the other thing is, you know, it's
28 kind of like with wildlife management, you know, you're
29 always trying to do a little bit better than you had in
30 the past. And this was our opportunity, you know, was
31 to improve upon something for the people, you know, so
32 we can do our job better to provide you with better
33 information, especially when you have to make decisions
34 like you're about to make in a few minutes. And, you
35 know, that doesn't mean it doesn't come with a little
36 bit of heartache or a little bit of uncertainty around
37 certain parts of it, but, you know, we're doing the
38 best that we possibly can to make sure that we
39 acknowledge that, and also, you know, get to the bottom
40 of it if we can.

41
42 So hopefully that answers your question
43 there, Rosemary.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, I think that
46 does provide some answers, but it also does solidify
47 that we have some concerns about the way that this data
48 is being interpreted. It would be best for us to be on
49 the safe side, and that's a few years of data

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1 accumulation occur to make sure that the numbers are
2 increase in population, not increasing in
3 digitalization that allows us to count animals that
4 wasn't previously counted and that affects the
5 population data. So definitely I understand and see in
6 variations of what we had with previous views and some
7 of the ways that you're doing the counting, but I also
8 know that in this newer digitalization that we have
9 animals that are being counted that weren't counted
10 before, and that affects the way that we're assessing
11 the interpretation of this data. And being cautious
12 and letting us go through a period of time where we
13 improve the confidence that these are true population
14 increases and not related to new technique that counted
15 animals that would not have been counted in the
16 previous way.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's an
21 excellent point, Rosemary. Thank you for that. And I
22 want to say we hear you loud and clear on that one. We
23 have no intention of using this new estimate to also
24 change regulations or anything like that. You know, I
25 think we're all very excited at what this new
26 technology can do for us, but we're also all very
27 anxious on the next several photo censuses, to see what
28 those are. So that's a good point that you brought up
29 there. And we feel the same way.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: I have a -- you know,
32 the last couple years we've seen a high number of
33 predators, you know. What percentage do the predators
34 take of this Western Arctic Caribou Herd, or do you
35 know that? You know, the last two years in Point Hope
36 alone so many wolves have been caught. You know, we've
37 never seen so many, you know, the younger generation
38 going home with three or four wolves at a time, you
39 know. And, you know, this last two years, you know,
40 the wolves, wolverines, grizzly bears. They even saw a
41 grizzly bear track out this early, you know, out of
42 hibernation. Do you guys know what percentage the
43 predators take of the herds?

44
45 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, thanks, Steve.
46 That's an excellent question. And, you know, I don't
47 have that exact percentage for you at this time, but I
48 know that we have some -- a little bit of data on that
49 in terms of whenever we go to pick up a collar,
50

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1 whenever we get a mort signal from a collar, and we go
2 out onto the land to pick that collar up. There is
3 some information about the cause of death on those
4 animals. I don't have that right in front of me, but
5 I'll be sure to gather that information, unless Lincoln
6 or Alex are on the line, which I don't think they are.
7 I'll be sure to gather that information and pass that
8 along.
9

10 But, you know, I'm hearing that from
11 guys Slope-wide, you know, wolves -- a lot of predators
12 out there. So, you know, I think that, you know, Point
13 Hope is kind of mirroring what's going on everywhere.
14 And, you know, maybe some of that can be explained by,
15 hey, numbers are going up, predators are increasing. I
16 don't know. We don't -- you know, it's tough to say at
17 this time, but, yeah, interesting observation. I'll
18 get back to you.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. This is
21 Gordon Brower for the record.
22

23 And in looking at the new count based
24 on new equipment, I tend to agree with Rosemary, you
25 know, we just got through, at least since 2014,
26 critical dialogue of the Teshekpuk Herd, critical
27 dialogue about the Western Arctic Herd. And dire
28 straits dialogue about the Central Arctic Herd. It
29 would be, I think, very prudent, because I've seen all
30 of the scientists of the North Slope Borough in looking
31 at confidence levels and intervals when they create
32 models to support.
33

34 Let's just say, for example, the
35 acoustical monitoring for bowhead whale movements
36 across the oil patch near North Star Island. It was an
37 ordinance of the Borough to study the impact and the
38 deflection of the movement of bowhead whales as it
39 encountered North Star Island. It's an oil production
40 island in 39 feet of water. You could see bowhead
41 whales moving across, visibly you could see there.
42

43 So they had -- and then the information
44 is also funneled to the North Slope Borough Science
45 Advisory Committee of the mayor. Senior scientists
46 from universities and very achieved scientists that are
47 part of the North Slope Borough's Science Advisory
48 Committee go in to interpret the movements of these to
49 reflect on the impact that the availability of these
50

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1 resources was not going to be impacted to such.

2

3 So, anyway, you kind of look at kind of
4 seeing where I'm trending, where I'm talking about, is
5 maybe a blip with new information is not yet -- it's a
6 good sign. I have a good feeling about it, but it
7 should not be based -- be the basis of making rash
8 decisions. Let's look at it maybe and create a
9 substantial trend that we are.....

10

11 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's what I'm saying,
12 Gordon, is, you know, we all feel the same way here in
13 terms of, you know, nobody's running anywhere to say,
14 oh, well, okay, we got to do something new, because,
15 you know -- and this fits in line with, you know, what
16 folks on the land are saying, you know, all the metrics
17 we've been collecting, and, yeah, I -- yeah, no one is
18 trying to make any kind of regulation changes based on
19 these new numbers. That's just not possible.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, I wasn't
22 saying that, but maybe -- but I lost my train of
23 thought when you interrupted me there, so, you know,
24 old people like me -- or kind of old people, you know,
25 you interrupt their train of thought, and we start
26 thinking about lollipops at that point.

27

28 So with that, anyway, that's what I was
29 going. We need to look at -- I think it's a fantastic
30 new tool. I think it's the wave of the future to have
31 digital imagery. But I think a simple blip could be an
32 outlier, and we need to establish trends to make
33 decisions off of. That's where I just wanted to make.
34 Because science is like that. They have to establish
35 trends. It's very critical.

36

37 And I think if we could do what we've
38 done with the bowhead whale -- I mean, it's such major
39 control. We can't even allow seismic operations in its
40 wake. We can't. And we have conflict avoidance
41 agreements that are created out of North Slope -- not
42 created by the North Slope Borough, but as a side
43 effect, because the North Slope Borough has said, you
44 must to into warm shut-down mode. No barging of
45 equipment and oilfield activities until the movement of
46 bowhead whales or the quotas have been met.

47

48 We can basically do the same thing on
49 land, especially, you know, around these areas to

50

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1 provide a meaningful opportunity and reasonable harvest
2 levels for the communities. Anyway, we've never gone
3 that way on land, but we sure did it on the marine
4 mammals, for bowhead whale.

5
6 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you for that,
7 Gordon, and I hope this digital photo census is a step
8 in that direction.

9
10 I just also wanted to remind this
11 Council that 2019 will be the year that folks can start
12 submitting proposals to the Board of Game, and then the
13 Board of Game will meet again for this particular
14 region in 2020. I'm not saying -- you know, I just
15 wanted to remind folks that somebody could be putting a
16 proposal or something, so just have that on the radar
17 and, you know, we'll continue to provide information as
18 transparently as we can to move forward through this
19 thing.

20
21 Lee.

22
23 MR. KAYOTUK: Lee Kayotuk for the
24 record.

25
26 Yeah, when we notice the caribou in our
27 village, the caribou is being pushed towards the
28 village because of predators. And I believe that the
29 caribou that is getting away is moving towards the
30 people because of the predators are pushing them away.
31 And we found out last year that the caribou's moving
32 towards a village, towards more people that have -- you
33 know, we had a couple caribou that came in just not
34 even like a couple weeks ago that moved towards the
35 village that's getting away from predators. And we've
36 been seeing that from, you know, just getting away from
37 like wolves or wolverines that are chasing them. And
38 we noticed that we've got a point that, you know,
39 they're smart. We said, well, we're going to get away
40 from these people and -- I mean our predators and move
41 towards the village, and, you know, people just started
42 -- try to check out for the wolves and that, because
43 the caribou are moving more closer to the village to
44 keep away from predators.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, thanks for that
49 observation, Lee. Again, that just confirms and

50

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1 corroborates with everyone else. I mean, there seems
2 to be a lot of predators out there, and I encourage
3 folks to get a hunting license and a trapping license
4 and get after it.

5
6 MS. HUGO: Good morning.

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning, Esther.

9
10 MS. HUGO: Can you go back to that data
11 on the 26, Nome. It's in the beginning. It's the
12 number were -- there. Well, it shows how much the 26A
13 harvest is, but how could we harvest that many caribou?
14 They didn't even come by or it was after rutting
15 season. Where did you get those numbers from if we
16 barely even got 100 or 50 in the community?

17
18 MR. KLIMSTRA: That particular number,
19 Esther, I -- yeah, that doesn't represent Anaktuvuk. I
20 know where you're coming from here. That's for all
21 villages, 26A. So that includes Wainwright, Atkasuk,
22 you know. Point Lay, Barrow. So it's all those -- all
23 villages, not just for Anaktuvuk. And, you know -- and
24 that's just for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
25 That's just the ones that we think are harvested. But
26 again, you know, it changes from year to year. That's
27 the long-term average. And it's really tough to get
28 at, to know what the accurate number is without, you
29 know, accurate harvest data. And this is just from
30 community household surveys, and this is an estimate
31 of, you know, long-term average.

32
33 MS. HUGO: I know, but the numbers for
34 our village shouldn't even be included at all.

35
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, your numbers are
37 included in there.....

38
39 MS. HUGO: It should be zero or less
40 than 20.

41
42 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, for 26A there's,
43 you know, six villages in 26A, so.....

44
45 MS. HUGO: I understand that. For our
46 village. I mean, I'm talking about.....

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, yeah, yeah, for
49 Anaktuvuk, yeah. I mean there's been years where you

50

1 guys have had very, very low harvest.

2

3 MS. HUGO: I mean, you're putting that
4 number, I mean, for our community.

5

6 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure, if I were to -- if
7 we were to break this down into by community, yeah,
8 yours would be very low. Yeah.

9

10 MS. HUGO: That's all I wanted to know.

11

12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Except for this year.
13 You guys have been doing pretty good?

14

15 MS. HUGO: Not really, no.

16

17 MR. KLIMSTRA: For caribou harvest?
18 No? Okay.

19

20 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yeah, it would be good
21 if we had the accurate numbers, not your rough
22 estimates. Kind of -- rough estimates won't get us
23 nowhere. We need the accurate numbers for all
24 community.

25

26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, I agree with you
27 100 percent, Jerry. And that RC 907, that will get us
28 there. That will get us those accurate numbers if we
29 use that registration permit. Until then, we don't
30 have a way to have accurate data on harvest.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just I wanted to
33 comment on that as well. I think it's very important
34 that we all advocate for participation of all of our
35 communities so that, you know, this data, they could
36 use it how they want to do it, but we can also use that
37 data, too. And it's important, I think, nowadays,
38 because we continue to struggle, and when serious
39 conflicts come around and I've seen it for myself when,
40 you know, the non-rural use issue comes around and
41 arguments start to ensue. And pretty soon you get a
42 dead caribou testifying in front of everybody. So it's
43 very heart wrenching to do these kind -- but when we
44 got raw data that is consistent and then we advocate
45 for it, I'm one, that I tell my son, you're going to go
46 catch a caribou, you better -- you know, we better
47 report it, and we better account for it, because, you
48 know, we have respect for our animals. And now our
49 animals have rights, too. They need to be counted, and

50

1 how they die and whether it's a wolf eating it or if
2 I'm eating, it's critical fort they get counted
3 nowadays and weigh against the living population of
4 those animals, so it's important.
5

6 I think all of us as Council members --
7 because I've expressed it and then had very big
8 backlash saying, what the hell, you're trying to get me
9 to apply for a license. I have the right to hunt. I'm
10 a Native, and, yeah, and it's my right, and I don't
11 need to -- I came living with the right to kill that
12 animal. Yeah, I think that's true, but when the animal
13 population and competing uses become argumentative, I
14 think it's important for us to be part of the solution,
15 too.
16

17 MR. KLIMSTRA: I couldn't agree more
18 with you, Gordon. And just to elaborate on that just
19 briefly. One last point is, you know, being a part of
20 it gives you a say, you know. Like I gives you
21 ownership when you go to the Board of Game who is the
22 one who ultimately makes decisions. You know, if we
23 have harvest data from 26A, we can say, now, wait a
24 minute. I think we should steer this thing in this
25 direction. Here's why, you know. If we don't have
26 that, then unfortunately it's kind of like, well, we're
27 just along for the ride. And so that's an excellent
28 point you just brought up, Gordon.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just one more
31 thing. We're always being law abiding I think. We're
32 always law abiding. In our management for the bowhead
33 whale, if I strike a whale with a calf, our own Whaling
34 Captains Association, our own AWC will sanction you.
35 And the tribe will take your gear away. The tribe will
36 take your gear away. They'll take your harpoons.
37 They'll take your shoulder guns. They'll take all your
38 bombs. And you will be sanctioned for five years from
39 hunting that whale again. That's how strict the co-
40 management regime for bowhead whale is. And we are law
41 abiding, because they are very controlled.
42

43 I just wanted to express that, because
44 we already live by some regulations, and we have been
45 masters of stewardship in doing that for our own
46 people. And I think it's important to recognize it's
47 -- the caribou, we've been struggling with it over five
48 years already and the declining numbers. I'm elated
49 that numbers seem to be rebounding, and we hope that
50

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1 trend starts to develop into a format that we can all
2 be able to express.

3
4 At the same time I want to -- I think
5 there's a need to work with local governments,
6 including the zoning. Not just the wildlife
7 department, including the zoning, because through
8 zoning and the use of policy, that's how we have land
9 use policies on bowhead whale, the availability of
10 those resources. Even for terrestrial. You've just
11 got to sit down and go through some of the policies
12 that are geared to -- now going to be more important
13 for the area of influence that are being adopted by
14 ordinances for every village, and those area of
15 influence about contemporary and traditional activities
16 in those area where our policy of the North Slope
17 Borough, which the state is bound to abide by, that
18 subsistence resources prohibiting the subsistence of
19 subsistence resources -- it's reasonable opportunity
20 for subsistence harvesting subsistence resources where
21 they're normally found. Not where they're normally
22 displaced. Not where they're normally moved by other
23 competing uses. It may mean that out of those kind of
24 policies stipulations like in our permits might say,
25 between July and October 15, this particular area in
26 the wake of the movement of large scale terrestrial
27 mammals may be off limits for a window -- a period of
28 time just like we do for bowhead whales, which highly
29 legal and align use policy. And there's things I think
30 where the State and Feds, we need to come together with
31 local as we enact some of these kinds of rules.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 Council. I appreciate your time, and I'm glad we had
37 some -- oh, we've got another.....

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We have a question
40 in audience, and I also have a question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was your name
43 again?

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Carmen.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: My name is Carmen. And I

50

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1 guess I just wanted to ask you guys since you had lots
2 of wonderful points about the kickback that we get from
3 people and trying to get buy-in. Maybe at some point
4 it would be good to have some sort of discussion about
5 ideas that you guys have for trying to help people
6 understand what to do in each village, and personalize
7 the approach for getting those permits out to each of
8 those villages. Maybe not necessarily.....
9

10 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Maybe at a break
11 we can talk a little bit about that.
12

13 It's a good idea. Yep.
14

15 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, I didn't mean right
16 now, but in general it would be good to have you guys'
17 perspective on that. You know your communities best,
18 and we want to tailor our efforts for that.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've expressed
23 concern about the way that the State has accumulated
24 data and then layers of information, so we expressed
25 concerns that we'd like to see some of these broke down
26 by years, not lumping all of the years together into
27 that research, similar to what Anaktuvuk had in their
28 questions, that if we had saw this broke out into a
29 number of years, it would be a very different
30 interpretation instead of a solid number at over 1,000
31 of harvest; whereas you would see increasing conflict
32 with subsistence harvesting over decades of time.
33

34 Also, I noticed that this report comes
35 out in '98, and for Nuiqsut, the subsistence harvest
36 impacts related to the Alpine development, we don't
37 have the data prior to Alpine, and we have data
38 accumulating after Alpine. And so that really affects
39 the way that the data is being accumulated.
40

41 The other factor is that when we have
42 hunters that go out, like my son went out a few years
43 ago, and he traveled over 300 miles to harvest caribou
44 and brought that back and shared with 19 families, but
45 yet we have different survey efforts to limit the data
46 points to a 60 or 70-mile radius around the village,
47 but yet when we have hunters that are traveling over
48 300 miles, they're not included in those data points.
49 And how do we get some of that important variables that
50

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1 are very important about how hard we're working to
2 harvest with the demands that are being put on us, and
3 the changes that are happening near our community where
4 our harvest data points are not being included, because
5 they're not being allowed by research data limiters.
6 And that it really impact how do we interpret some of
7 this important data.

8
9 MR. KLIMSTRA: Those are all excellent
10 points again, Rosemary. It kind of goes in line with
11 what Jerry was saying, you know, and like how do you
12 split this thing about. Well, we haven't been able to,
13 because we don't have the data. You know, like -- but
14 RC 907, man, that we now have the tool in our hands to
15 get that data. We now all have the tool to get that
16 data on a yearly basis. And then we can really look --
17 we can start to look at those spatial differences, and
18 also, you know, does Anaktuvuk this year only get 10
19 caribou, or did they get, you know, 200 on a specific
20 year rather than relying on, you know, household
21 surveys and such, that RC 907, man, that would get it
22 every single year, if we can get people to participate.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also the
25 interpretation of the protections that were given to
26 the Porcupine Herd with their protections on the
27 Canadian side to protect the calving grounds, and the
28 other three herds in the Arctic on the Alaska side do
29 not have those protections, and how does that translate
30 into the interpretation of the data that's being
31 presented.

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure, that's another
34 good point. I'm not too familiar with what's going on
35 on the Canadian side there, but, you know, your point's
36 well taken there.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 I've got one last question that's kind
41 of an aside. How many folks sitting up here are also
42 on the Fish and Game Management Committee with the
43 North Slope Borough? I think there's a couple --
44 there's just two. I need to talk to you guys
45 separately later about something else.

46
47 But, okay, thank you very much.

48
49 Thanks for your time.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Ryan, I had a
2 couple -- I had one here that Bob gave me a couple
3 notes.
4

5 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, sure.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He had to go before a
8 compensation committee for 30 minutes. He'll be right
9 back. But he did write down, ask about ADF&G continued
10 commitment towards funding accurate counting.
11

12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. No, that's --
13 with this new digital system, boy, have we -- do we
14 think we're there now. You know, here's an example.
15 So, you know, in terms of funding it, this new digital
16 system also is going to save some money. You know, the
17 photo census can be really expensive with that film
18 system, and everything just has to align just
19 perfectly, you know, the conditions, the availability
20 of the photo planes, you know, the caribou have to
21 aggregate properly. The caribou still have to
22 aggregate properly. We've got a little more wiggle
23 room on the conditions. And then the overall cost is
24 much lower with this new digital system. I think my
25 difference this year for a photo census was something
26 like eight grand less to complete a day's worth of
27 work, which was a tremendous value. So we're fully
28 committed to, you know, funding this thing. We've
29 purchased all the equipment, it's ours. And so now
30 we're just, you know, we're going forward. That's the
31 plan is to go forward with this new system and keep you
32 all with us as we travel.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lastly I've got one
35 last thing. And this is something that was bothering
36 me last night after we had a little bit of update on
37 the charter and some of the dialogue that's there, but
38 also some opportunities I thought. But I think those
39 opportunities would have to be worked between the
40 State, the Feds, and the local North Slope Borough to
41 work together to come up with a different way of doing
42 things and achieving the goals that we all need to
43 achieve all those goals. The Borough in its creation
44 of village comprehensive plans, adopting those by
45 ordinance into laws of the North Slope Borough, the
46 village area of influence, the language in the proposed
47 -- maybe it is not proposed, but the charter signed by
48 Zinke to do this, this and that. And it was kind of
49 startling to look at it, but there's opportunities.
50

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1 And I look at the Teshekpuk Special
2 Area as an example. Our own study, and it's called the
3 NPR-A technical report, maybe in short the technical
4 report, we're supposed to -- we have been funded
5 through impact funds to do a comprehensive oil and gas
6 plan for the North Slope Borough, but it was too
7 daunting of a task, and it got whittled down to, you
8 know, NPR-A technical report, and then to the oil and
9 gas technical report for the Borough, but funded out of
10 NPR-A. Anyway, long story short, if you take a look at
11 some of that and the concerns raised in the technical
12 report over the special area around Teshekpuk, and what
13 it can potentially do, using the radio-collar
14 information that was provided by Parent.....

15
16 Somebody obviously doesn't want me to
17 explain this.

18
19 Do we need to stop talking now or.....

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yeah, please stop talking
22 just for one minute.

23
24 (Pause -- music playing -- re-
25 establishing teleconference)

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Go ahead.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That was
30 quicker than the last time. Last time we had to take a
31 substantial break. It was short enough to keep my
32 memory I think.

33
34 All right.

35
36 And I think I alluded to the North
37 Slope Borough's technical report. And there was some
38 concerning stuff in there about the accidental study
39 around the Red Dog Mine road. ADF&G has some
40 information on that with radio-collared information
41 when the hesitation to cross the road and return back
42 and go back through the mountains on the other side.

43
44 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yep, that's correct.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Probably about, I
47 don't know, maybe 15,000 of those caribous died in that
48 process as well. Anyway, that and the animation that
49 shows the Central Arctic Herd and its habituation on

50

1 the Dalton Highway. And then dissecting into two
2 groups to calving, which are highly altered calving --
3 core calving areas. If you look at our own North Slope
4 Borough atlas that was approved in 1988 with
5 information that was developed probably in the 70s and
6 early 80s show that core calving to be around Milne
7 Point, around the coastline over there. Currently they
8 calve about 25 miles inland around by melt water, and
9 then separated by the Trans Alaska Pipeline into Badami
10 Oil Field, over that way. So if you look at that and
11 the complete habituation of the Central Arctic Herd,
12 they don't deviate from the Haul Road corridor. You
13 just don't see them deviate. You can pull up the
14 collared information for the last two decades, and they
15 do not deviate from that corridor.

16
17 So one of the concerns, and using all
18 of that information and what information was garnered
19 from the Red Dog Mine and the crossing problem, other
20 related issues, and things like that, and then the
21 drawing of the special area around the Teshekpuk Herd,
22 suggesting no permanent infrastructure, no roads, no
23 pipelines, no surface stuff in this Teshekpuk special
24 area management plan, and relegated that kind of stuff
25 to be outside of that box that was drawn. And if you
26 put that transportation corridor straight to where
27 concentrated oil and gas activities that were occurring
28 by Shell, it would probably shoreline approach in
29 Wainwright and then to try to get that to the Trans
30 Alaska Pipe, you would have seen a corridor dissecting
31 NPR-A in half about 60 to 80 miles southeast of Barrow.

32
33 And then probably look at Teshekpuk
34 Herd model. Its movement, just like the Central Arctic
35 Herd and potentially dissecting NPR-A from -- in two
36 halves, and potentially making it unreasonable access
37 policies to come to light that the Borough has, that
38 you can't preclude reasonable subsistence user access
39 to a subsistence resource where they are normally
40 found. That's a policy of the Borough in land
41 management. And that would be a major issue in the
42 technical report that kind of looks at that, and say,
43 is that pipeline corridor, either the pipeline should
44 be all buried in the permafrost, or put that corridor
45 on the coastline to where the animals' destination
46 would already be for insect relief and core calving,
47 and not 80 and 90 miles inland and dissecting that
48 area, and potentially making it unreasonable for the
49 most populated section on the North Slope, the most
50

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1 populated area on the North Slope, from having
2 reasonable access to those subsistence resources.

3
4 So long story short, I mean, that's --
5 those are the types of concerns that some to mind, and
6 the need to sit down to -- with I think Secretary
7 Zinke's -- if you look at that language, it says, work
8 with local tribe -- work together now. Find better
9 ways of doing things.

10
11 And the outcry that we've had for 30
12 years about user conflicts, the availability of
13 subsistence resources. And before the North Slope
14 Borough does something, just like what we've done with
15 bowhead whale and creating those policies, before we do
16 that on land, I think it's important to find ways where
17 we can work together, and find a reasonable solution,
18 because we are working towards a comprehensive approach
19 on the North Slope with comprehensive planning. And we
20 are now getting ready to, once all the village
21 comprehensive plans are done, update the entire North
22 Slope Borough's comprehensive plan, the umbrella
23 comprehensive plan with including all the village
24 plans, which every one of these are describing their
25 area of influence.

26
27 Anyway, long story short. But I think
28 it's important to tell these kind of stories and talk,
29 because, you know, there's always been kind of like OSM
30 does its own stuff, ADF&G does its own stuff, and then
31 we cry, you know. And that seems to be how its been.

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, it sounds like
34 there's an opportunity or potential for some research
35 and collaboration in the future there.

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, you brought
38 up the comprehensive plans and Nuiqsut doesn't have
39 ours completed, and it's very important that the
40 reasoning why Nuiqsut did not complete the
41 comprehensive plan is that the Nuiqsut Paisangich (ph)
42 has a better understanding with local involvement and
43 control of some of the decision-making process, and the
44 North Slope Borough's planning process removes that
45 local control. And we haven't been able to update the
46 plan that allows us to maintain the protections we have
47 with the Nuiqsut Paisangich. And what we would lose
48 with the new comprehensive planning effort through the
49 North Slope Borough over some of those local control

50

1 issues.

2
3 It also leads to some of the
4 development that we're dealing with in National
5 Petroleum Reserve. When the area in this area was a
6 conservation unit in our early planning efforts were
7 protecting and some of the decision-making factors, and
8 that is no longer a conservation unit. It's been
9 changed to a development unit. Those protective
10 mechanisms that were put in the early planning stages
11 are not protective mechanisms that can be incorporated
12 in this current planning stages, and that understanding
13 needs to be translated into the future documents,
14 because it affects the interpretation of the data
15 that's incorporated throughout all of this data
16 collection. And it affects the way that we're
17 communicating some of our concerns, because we
18 initially had that protective mechanism, but now that
19 we don't have that protective mechanism, and now we're
20 having State, Federal, and Borough government
21 increasing the activities around our communities, it
22 greatly impacts whether or not any of our efforts to
23 put in measures to give us subsistence protections will
24 or will not be available in this data interpretation.

25
26 So these are all very important
27 planning efforts as you're going through some of this
28 discussion, but really working with our communities on
29 this issue is instrumental, because we can take some of
30 your data that you're putting forward in this
31 discussion, just as we were upset about the number that
32 you came up with when you put the '98 through 2016
33 data, or whatever it was on that slide. And then when
34 we bring in our personal knowledge about those are not
35 numbers that we're harvesting at, yet these are
36 decision-making criteria that others are using to make
37 land use decisions that are greatly impacting us. And
38 it's this accumulation of information that facilitates
39 project approval beyond the village's conflict. And
40 that's -- our villages are being put in astronomical
41 situations to try to defend in these situations.
42 Protective mechanisms that we put in keep getting
43 pulled back. And so all of these layers of protections
44 affect the way that you're interpreting this data as
45 well as historical data comparing to new data. And
46 we're very, very concerned about this, and we question
47 this process extensively. But we also worked very hard
48 to try to maintain some of these protections, and yet
49 the Borough and the State and the Federal governments

50

1 still are going against the community's concerns to
2 protect our subsistence way of life, and approving more
3 and more projects on these discussions.
4

5 So Gordon brought out the effort. Yes,
6 we want to do some improvements around this
7 comprehensive planning, but local control is
8 instrumental for our communities to push and make
9 others that are making decisions affecting our village
10 subsistence harvest. It's really important that we
11 have a better seat in this process to try to deal with
12 some of these issues and complaints. Just as we asked
13 for that satellite imagery, you know, if we get that
14 imagery presented where we have key unit development
15 and we look at that satellite imagery, it's a very
16 different view than if you do your multiple years over
17 time and rapidly show don't worry, you've still got
18 animals moving through this area. So that kind of
19 information, we really, you know, requested that we get
20 some of this discussion, but yet you're back in another
21 report and you're lumping this information together,
22 and it's impacting us. And so I put that back out
23 there that we're still very concerned about the way
24 that the State is presenting this information, because
25 the State is facilitating continuing to impact our
26 subsistence way of life.
27

28 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Rosemary.
29 And I guess again the thing that I'm just hearing over
30 and over again is like we've got to have more accurate
31 data here. And, you know, the best tool that we have
32 available for this at this time is that RC 907. You
33 know, this -- we can get at these things, you know We
34 have that opportunity now. And so I hope that, you
35 know, we can really make a difference for communities
36 like Nuiqsut with this permit.
37

38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also the reference
39 to the Red Dog Mine and its studies, this is some data
40 that could have been collected in the North Slope
41 region with efforts to get support from the North Slope
42 Borough and the State of Alaska to look at some of the
43 impacts related to land use changes around Nuiqsut in
44 the Prudhoe Bay region. We could have been collecting
45 this data, but nobody allowed us to get it, and yet
46 when we put all these complaints and concerns in there,
47 the process for the Red Dog Mine did get some
48 statistical data. And, yes, it is an issue about some
49 of the changes that we're dealing with and in
50

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1 interpreting that data, but it's our failure to get
2 this data around the existing industrial field that is
3 not giving us resources to assess planning decisions
4 around road and infrastructure development that gives
5 us criteria that says maybe 500 acres of gravel
6 placement is much too impactful in key calving areas
7 versus having a 14-acre plan that was presented when we
8 started some of these discussions around Nuiqsut.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

11
12 Any other questions on the ADF&G, the
13 updates on caribou Western Arctic Herd and Teshekpuk
14 Herd.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Were you going to
19 touch on Central or not?

20
21 MR. KLIMSTRA: I provided that handout
22 to you. Unfortunately the Central Arctic Herd
23 biologist had a conflict and couldn't be here. I can
24 certainly relay questions. And I don't know if she's
25 on the line.

26
27 MR. PATTON: Beth was on the line this
28 morning.

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, okay. Beth, are you
31 still on the line?

32
33 MS. PATTON: And maybe while
34 you're.....

35
36 MS. LENART: Hi, I am still on the line
37 until 11, and then I'm -- and Jason, my assistant, is
38 also on the line if for some reason we're in the middle
39 of.....

40
41 MR. KLIMSTRA: So if anybody's got any
42 Central Arctic Herd questions.....

43
44 MS. LENART:something, and I need
45 to take off. But I will be here until 11, so it would
46 be great if you had a chance to look at that handout
47 and had any questions for me.

48
49 MS. PATTON: So for the Council, that
50

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1 got distributed yesterday, and let me know if you.....

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA: If you don't -- if you
4 need another one, I can provide another one here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I was
7 interested to look at it.

8

9 MS. PATTON: It looks like this.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here it is, I guess.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Here you go.

14

15 MR. KLIMSTRA: I'm going to step away
16 from the microphone. I've talked enough. I'm going to
17 let Beth handle Central Arctic Herd here. So thank you
18 for your time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe just one
21 question while you're there. Was there a count on
22 Central Arctic Herd using the digital equipment?

23

24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, I'll let Beth take
25 that. She's got all that information for you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Okay.

28

29 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. This is Beth
30 Lenart, Fish and Game, for the record.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Beth.

33

34 MS. LENART: The count that we're using
35 is from the digital photo census. We also conducted a
36 photo census using the film camera, because we weren't
37 sure we were going to be able to get to use the digital
38 camera. There was a conflict with another herd. But
39 then conditions were good. And so the photo census
40 memo that I just sent out are the results from the
41 digital camera.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
44 questions for Beth on the handout. And I'm seeing a
45 whole bunch of confidence intervals and triangles with
46 -- what is that, Rivest -- some kind of confidence
47 level intervals. So what is -- if you could talk to us
48 about the sheet that was handed out, maybe starting off
49 with if there's any positive outlook on its growth, and

50

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1 if it's trending the same as the Central -- I mean the
2 Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic Herd might be helpful.

3
4 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. Yes, I can
5 summarize that handout.

6
7 So for the Central Arctic Caribou Herd,
8 our current population estimate is about 28,000 caribou
9 which is higher than the 2016 estimate of about 23,000
10 caribou. So even though the number is higher, based on
11 what you heard about the digital camera, and then based
12 on some other demographic data that we've collected --
13 for example, mortality rates were a little bit high
14 during that year. Pregnancy rates were good. But in
15 general I think that that herd is closer to stability
16 rather than growing. So even though on the graph it
17 looks like the number is higher, based on some of the
18 mortality rates we had of adult females, I think the
19 herd was probably closer to being stable.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the actual count,
22 is 26,000 the estimate with that plus and minus, and
23 there was also what Ryan talked about, was the minimum
24 count, what was actually counted?

25
26 MS. LENART: Correct. Well, the
27 estimate was closer to 28,000 and then it's plus or
28 minus a few thousand caribou. And so that uncertainty
29 is captured in caribou that we didn't capture in
30 photographs, so we counted a minimum of -- let me see.
31 We counted a minimum of 27,000 caribou. So basically
32 that, you know, incorporating some statistics, it's
33 added another thousand caribou, so those were caribou
34 that we probably didn't observe that were on the
35 landscape. Does that make sense?

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it does
38 after, you know, listening to Ryan explanation of
39 things. And, you know, we have historical highs of
40 herd size, and then the management scheme based on some
41 of those trends. So when was the Central Arctic Herd
42 historical highs? I mean, are those decades and
43 decades ago, or are they recent? I've heard as much as
44 55,000 animals to 60, 70,000 animals in the period of
45 time that I've had to be -- have had the pleasure of
46 serving here over the course of, you know, several
47 decades anyway.

48
49 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. The Central
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1 Arctic Herd was identified in 1978 at about 5,000
2 caribou. And then it increased and then it peaked at
3 about 70,000 caribou in 2010. So for a couple of years
4 there it was 60 to 70,000 caribou. And then it
5 declined in 2013. If you recall, in 2013, that was a
6 really hard spring on a lot of animals on the North
7 Slope. And then it continued to decline sharply in
8 2016. And now we think it's about stable in 2017.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think
11 those were -- I think it's important just to look at
12 what the herd strengths has been and where it's gone
13 and where it's come back from. And it seems to me --
14 you know, I think last year we were hearing that they
15 going -- they were trending towards below 20,000 is
16 what I heard, and it's good to see then an actual count
17 of 27,000. That would be the minimum count; that's the
18 actual count
19

20 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, I agree. I was
21 glad to see the same thing.
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And that's
24 using the digital equipment and supplemented by the
25 film. And did those two coincide or was it one worked
26 to support the other, or were they mirroring in
27 approach, or what's the story on that?
28

29 MS. LENART: Well, the difference
30 between the -- so the film camera photo census occurred
31 the day before the photo census that we did with the
32 digital camera. And it was -- we did that one, because
33 we didn't know if we would be able to get the digital
34 camera to the North Slope in time before the caribou
35 aggregation broke up. So it's a separate census.
36 Those number are -- I'm still working on those numbers,
37 but right now the preliminary data indicate that those
38 numbers are similar to last year's film census, around
39 23,000 caribou. And so that's -- and so I'm kind of
40 working on a memo with comparing that to the digital.
41 The issue with the film census on that day was there
42 was some caribou movement, and so it's harder to
43 capture exactly what's going on, because you have
44 overlapping photos, and trying -- and when caribou
45 movement occurs, that makes it a little more
46 challenging. And so that's one of the benefits of the
47 digital camera is that we could take one photo -- just
48 one photo of a group of caribou. And so I'm not using
49 them necessarily together I guess, because that was
50

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1 part of your question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That's
4 the kind of -- just was information I wanted to hear.

5

6 Any questions for Beth from any of the
7 Council members.

8

9 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jerry from Anaktuvuk.

12

13 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes. Beth, I see your
14 numbers here that the demographic metrics collected.
15 And from '79, '80, and there's some years that aren't
16 counted. And why is that?

17

18 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Yeah,
19 that is because in some years those caribou weren't
20 aggregated well enough to take photos either due to
21 poor weather conditions, or due to lack of insects.
22 And in some years they were just too mixed with the
23 Porcupine Caribou Herd to do a photo census. So there
24 was a long stretch between 2002 and 2008 when we did
25 not get a photo census when it appears that that herd
26 was increasing.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jerry, did that
29 answer your question?

30

31 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
34 for Beth on Central Arctic Herd.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In Nuiqsut we put a
37 lot of communication about the concern to this herd and
38 the changes that were increasing access by other
39 hunters through the Dalton Highway. We've also put in
40 a lot of concern that there's more people bringing up
41 boats to access different waterways in the Arctic and
42 concerns about how that is impacting migration,
43 especially to the Village of Anaktuvuk, between Nuiqsut
44 and Anaktuvuk. Are we going to be able to get some of
45 that information and to assess some of these discussion
46 with any research efforts related to this herd.

47

48 MS. LENART: Through the Chair.
49 Rosemary, so we have some caribou movements, but it's

50

1 challenging to try to determine if hunters or vehicles
2 along the road or boats are deflecting those movements.
3 But I think I have some satellite collar data now that
4 I could at least map some of those movements and relay
5 that information. As far as trying to figure out how
6 to do that kind of study, so far it's been challenging.

7
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, we're --
9 definitely those are some important factors that we're
10 trying to hope in understanding the changes to the
11 various herds and what are some of the risk factors to
12 population growth and contributing actors, but this has
13 been a very big issue with all of our herds and their
14 migrations and discussions with Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk.
15 And we've been working for decades to try to build the
16 understanding of what's happening, but we definitely
17 need data to help us in interpreting that. But we also
18 need to be involved with others who are interpreting
19 that data so that when we're on the ground and we have
20 hunters that come up the Dalton Highway and they pass
21 38 hunters along their way to traveling back to our
22 village that, you know, some of that information is
23 being recorded, because we know it's not being
24 collected through the State and Federal government.
25 But we have put efforts into restrict some of these
26 activities, but if we don't have the data sets to help
27 us understand it, those are protective mechanisms to
28 consider to continue to use to improve these
29 populations.

30
31 Those are very important pieces of
32 information that could affect some of these decisions
33 as well as when we're reacting to others making
34 decisions to approve projects. And we're bringing
35 these concerns forward just as Anaktuvuk brought the
36 concern about the population harvest, because it was
37 layered from so many years of information. But when we
38 separated out to specific years or unit development,
39 that's a very different interpretation of the data. So
40 we've been pushing to try to get some of this. We
41 definitely want to continue to work with Anaktuvuk in
42 this interpretation of this data, but also working with
43 all that are dealing with trying to understand what's
44 happening to our population of the herds.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

47
48 MS. LENART: Through the Chair.
49 Rosemary, I hear you, and I have heard that in the

50

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1 past, too, and so I'm not trying to ignore it. So I'm
2 glad to hear you say it again, and that you guys are
3 actually, you know, trying to do some things on your
4 end with recording information. And so as I get a
5 little bit closer then maybe I can touch base with you,
6 as I get a little bit closer getting some of that data
7 together.
8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. That's great.
10 We would definitely love to work with it as well as
11 sharing the discussion between Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk,
12 because we're both trying to protect both our villages
13 and the changes that are coming. But we have
14 tremendous amount of concern with others that want to
15 change our lands and waters and could impact whether or
16 not the migrations continue to make kit to our
17 community. So these are really important issues that
18 we're putting forward, but it's difficult to get the
19 appropriateness of the response when others control
20 whether or not we have the resources to obtain the data
21 that we're requesting
22

23 MS. LENART: Okay.
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
26 to Beth on the Central Arctic Herd data sheet.
27

28 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Lee.
31

32 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, we've got the same
33 problem in our area, too, you know. We had a meeting
34 last month with -- I sit on a board with Native Village
35 of Kaktovik, and we're looking really closely about the
36 caribou patterns and migration and, you know, it's been
37 coming up that, you know, the tourists and like say by
38 the Canadian border which is a tent city place that
39 rafters and tourists are, you know. We heard that
40 people are following the caribou, and, you know, wow,
41 let's go follow the caribou, you know. We'll fly out
42 somebody there and drop them off and, you know, you're
43 going to have people that put them in the caribou that
44 didn't probably I want to say change their migration
45 pattern towards more of the south because of the
46 Porcupine Caribou that didn't come around for a few
47 years, and, you know, that we're looking closely into
48 about, you know, how the tourism rafters are -- could
49 be affecting in our area.
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

4

5 Any other questions for Beth.

6

7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, one more
8 question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: With the designation
13 of the Dalton Highway to become a scenic byways, there
14 has been a change in some of the usage on this area
15 with increasing outsiders bringing in large groups into
16 various areas doing float trips or doing tours with
17 large numbers of groups. Some of these outfitters that
18 are doing that kind of stuff. Have we collected any of
19 the data around that designation in that changing land
20 use that's coming from that designation.

21

22 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. This
23 is Beth Lenart.

24

25 I have not collected any of that data,
26 Rosemary. Most of what I have is hunter information.
27 I'm not sure how to get at that. I know a little bit
28 of way to get at that through the visitor's center
29 along the Dalton Highway, and so maybe they have some
30 data on especially trends through time on how many
31 tourists or whatever are going up the road, so that
32 might be a way to get some of that information.

33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, if we can work
35 to collect some of that information, it is a definite
36 change in some of the decision-making criteria, but it
37 also is in the concentration of different user
38 conflicts that are occurring. We've had different
39 people that use the motorcycles and come up with groups
40 and doing some of that travel. We've had bikers coming
41 through and doing some of that travel. But we also
42 have various caravans with the campers and they're --
43 those kind of things can be very impactful, as well as
44 some of these float trips that are occurring, and
45 looking at how that is contributing to some of the
46 discussions that we're having. It's very important if
47 we're not getting all of that various layers of data.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary

50

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1 MS. LENART: A good point actually.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
4 Any other questions for Beth on the Central Arctic. We
5 have Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Vince Mathews
8 with the three refuges.

9

10 I've been at the Arctic Interagency
11 Visitors Center the past two summers, and I'll be up
12 there this summer. I haven't looked at all the data
13 over the years, but please realize the Arctic
14 Interagency Visitor Center data is as they come in the
15 door, we count them. So they have to elect to come in.
16 It's not a track station.

17

18 Based just on memory, last year the
19 data was a little lower, but not low enough to be a
20 concern, compared to last years.

21

22 So I will be up there again and
23 interfacing this time all the way through into
24 September.

25

26 I talked to other staff there. We did
27 see a little bit more of hunters coming into the
28 visitors center compared to the past. They generally
29 are focused to get to their location, and then leave.
30 So I don't want to have you guys, you know, focus on
31 that data too closely. And then Beth brought up the
32 visitors service data.

33

34 And since I'm up at the mic, I'm really
35 pleased with your discussion on hunter harvest. I'm
36 involved with waterfowl harvest surveys across the
37 Interior, and we have good participation in that. And
38 Lee knows this, also I'll be part of the writing team
39 looking at ways to improve harvest data on the
40 Porcupine Caribou Herd on the U.S. side, so I'm hoping
41 to get more up to speed how they do it on the Canadian
42 side. So your whole discussion on the need for
43 participation is very timely for me.

44

45 And in respect to the past Chair of
46 Western Interior, Ron Sam, who passed away a few years
47 ago, we were working on -- that's why I have all this
48 gray hair, we were working on a Western Interior issue
49 on moose for, gosh, I can't remember, five, six years.

50

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1 And then once Ron pounded on the table saying, villages
2 need to report accurately. Then that decision took a
3 different path that resulted in solutions both at the
4 Board of Game level and the Federal level. But people
5 had to step up and report. And I know very well the
6 resistance on reporting.

7
8 So I will be using your transcript when
9 I run into people that have concerns on it. I would
10 encourage you guys to make strong statements to your
11 communities on the need for accurate reporting.

12
13 So anyways, I appreciate that
14 discussion.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.

17
18 Any other questions to Beth before we
19 let her go on the Central Arctic Herd worksheet that
20 she provided and her explanation.

21
22 Go ahead, Rosemary.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is also important
25 that in our region we've gone through years where we've
26 had increased research efforts with multiple entities
27 collecting data, and how that impacts the various
28 reporting that's occurring. We dealt with
29 ConocoPhillips and we dealt with Shell. Then we dealt
30 with the International Polar Year, and all these
31 different research efforts that are occurring out
32 there, but on those years that we have an increased
33 concentration of research efforts with multiple species
34 being researched by multiple entities, it does impact
35 the way that some of this information is being
36 accumulated. Is there any effort to show some of that
37 information and have the data as being collected, and
38 whether or not some of the crossover of flight patterns
39 and research data collection is impacting whether or
40 not we're getting the data that we should be getting.

41
42 MS. LENART: Through the Chair.
43 Rosemary, that -- I'm really glad you brought that up.
44 I just had a meeting with Todd Brinkman, UAF, who's
45 done some research in your area. And he mentioned that
46 he thought that Nuiqsut was the most surveyed routinely
47 village on the entire North Slope. And he made it, you
48 know, very evident that there were lots of research
49 going on and lots of surveys. And so that is one of

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1 the things that we are aware of that everybody's coming
2 and pounding on your door looking for information. And
3 so that is definitely something that we're aware of. I
4 don't know how to move forward from that, but we do
5 take that into consideration.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth.
8
9 Any other questions.

10
11 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
14 Steve, from Point Hope.

15
16 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, how far
17 south does your Central Arctic Herd migrate? Is there,
18 you know -- you know, the Ambler Mining District access
19 project that's coming up, are they in that area? Will
20 they migrate that far south?

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did we lose Beth. We
23 must have lost Beth, but to my knowledge, yeah, they do
24 go beyond the Borough boundaries to the south, and.....

25
26 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair, I just had my
27 mute on.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay. There you
30 are. Okay, I was going to answer for you, but.....

31
32 MS LENART: Yeah. So they don't
33 normally go over by the Ambler District, but they do go
34 to the south side of Brooks Range. And as far south as
35 they have gone, I don't know if you're familiar with
36 the Chandalar River just east of the Haul Road and the
37 northern side of Hodzana Hills, they have gone that far
38 south since I've been looking at them.

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.
41 You know, because we had some concerns about the
42 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, you know, that they ago
43 south on that side. You know, I don't know too much
44 about the east coast.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
47 hope that was helpful.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
2 for Beth.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we're
7 going to wrap up with the caribou updates and go into
8 the second part of old business, and that was to take
9 up special action review relevance. Maybe you can
10 point us in the right direction there, Eva.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
13 And if I may, I want to make sure Beth had her chance
14 to speak just in regards to the Western Arctic Caribou
15 Herd and Teshekpuk Herd and the registration permit.

16
17 Since we have new Council members whose
18 this is your first meeting, a little bit of background.
19 The State passed the registration permit for caribou
20 under State hunting regulations. There was a proposal
21 that was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.
22 At the last meeting this Council reviewed that
23 proposal, and it would, if passed by the Board, enact a
24 registration permit for the hunting of caribou on
25 Federal lands under Federal subsistence regulations as
26 well. And so for hunting on Federal lands, Anaktuvuk
27 Pass in the park system, or as Wainwright had noted,
28 they are most often hunting on BLM lands for caribou.
29 So if that passes by the Board, which is meeting in
30 April, and the Council Chair will be participating in
31 that and referring the Council's recommendation was to
32 support that request that request for harvest
33 registration permit. But that would address Anaktuvuk
34 Pass both in tribal consultation and in the Council
35 meetings here, that concern of not having accurate
36 harvest data, and not having current harvest data, and
37 that concern that the low harvest in recent years isn't
38 reflected, because currently it's a community harvest
39 survey that's done, and that can only occur because of
40 budgets every several years or so.

41
42 So we did put a request for Beth Mekow
43 to present on the community harvest data that has been
44 -- has taken place so far in Anaktuvuk Pass and other
45 communities in the region, but we will keep this
46 Council and the communities apprised of the Board's
47 decision, and if that Federal subsistence permit goes
48 through as well, a lot of communications and feedback
49 with the communities on how that interacts with Federal
50

1 subsistence harvest.

2

3 So I just wanted to add that.

4

5 We have new Council members to kind of
6 bring up to speed there.

7

8 So this proposal also came -- the
9 proposal that is coming before the Council, if the
10 Council wishes to reconsider it, came before this
11 Council at the fall meeting. This proposal was
12 addressing Unit 23 closure, and was submitted by the
13 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. The Council
14 took action on this proposal, and you can find in your
15 meeting minutes a summary of the Council's action, the
16 vote, and the justification. And that's on Page 12 in
17 your meeting minutes. We have -- because that was, you
18 know, several month ago, and also again we have new
19 Council members.

20

21 So we do have Josh here who can
22 provide, you know, an overview of the analysis, the new
23 information. Again it was the Staff to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board that had requested that all Councils
25 within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
26 have an opportunity to reconsider this if they so
27 wished based on new caribou data that was available,
28 and the action of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd at
29 their December meeting. So Josh can provide background
30 and update for you, but just a little background,
31 because we have new folks that weren't part of the
32 process in the fall.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Before I
35 recognize Josh, maybe it would be important to go ahead
36 and just read that portion of our minutes, because
37 there are folks that are new that weren't part of the
38 voting that went on and the deliberation and
39 discussions. I think that's the WP18-46/47.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Yes. And when there are
42 two proposals like that, because sometimes there are
43 proposals submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
44 that are very similar or identical, submitted by two
45 different entities and so they're combined together.
46 And so -- and again, because this is the Council's
47 recommendation, but we don't have, you know, the
48 synopsis. Essentially the request was to close Federal
49 lands in Unit 23 to the hunting of caribou to only

50

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1 Federally-qualified subsistence users. So it means
2 non-Federally-qualified users would, if passed, not be
3 allowed to hunt for caribou on Federal lands. And just
4 in Unit 23.

5
6 And this Council takes up proposals in
7 Unit 23 in part because C&T for the Western Arctic
8 Caribou herd throughout the range, and point is in Unit
9 23. And so this Council makes recommendations even
10 when it's, you know, outside of Unit 26A and the North
11 Slope region.

12
13 So the Council had responded to that
14 request for closure, and again that proposal was
15 submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And it
16 was noted that the impacts of aircrafts, so it was
17 addressing user conflicts as well in the region, to
18 bring in non-local hunters affects the -- oop. We have
19 a -- I've got a typo here, so let me pull this up.
20 Just a minute here and I'll pull up the full
21 recommendation here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the discussion and
24 justifications are just above the vote. It's right
25 there. The vote, 7 for to zero. Nobody abstained.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So the vote was --
28 so there was -- the Council was taking action -- just
29 trying to clarify, the Council was taking action on
30 Proposal 18-46. And five Council members supported 18-
31 46 as written, and two were opposed, and then took no
32 action on WP18-47. It's a little hard, because we're
33 kind of coming out of the process that we usually take
34 to provide an analysis first. No action on 47 because
35 the action taken on the prior proposal covered 47.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then why does it have
38 vote 7 for and against zero and abstained zero?

39
40 MS. PATTON: So you'll see it's five
41 voted for WP18-46 as written, and two against.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Right. And
44 then right underneath of that, take no action, but
45 there's a vote number there that says for seven and
46 against zero.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Right. So the Council
49 voted on Proposal 18-46, including the nay votes. And

50

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1 then took no action on 47. So the nay votes were still
2 taking action on 46.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5
6 MS. PATTON: And I apologize. It's a
7 little difficult to go back and refer -- I don't know
8 if it would be helpful just for a little background
9 reference on the two proposals.

10
11 Or would you like me just.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Eva, it's just
14 -- you know, I think it's important for us, because
15 when time elapse and then you're talking about
16 reconsideration, what did we do back then, especially
17 when people change, and then to reinterpret what
18 happened and to try to refresh our memory. I want to
19 make sure it's accurate, and then.....

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yeah, absolutely. And I
22 agree, and that's why I can read the Council's
23 justification, but it was in regards to the actual
24 proposal, and so it might be hard to recall what each
25 proposal was without a refresher. And so I'm just
26 referring to proposal numbers here, and the Council
27 noted that impacts from aircrafts used to bring in non-
28 local hunters affect the animal migration routes and
29 ability of locals to hunt. The Council feels the
30 aircraft operators desire to place paying clients in
31 the path of the caribou are diverting caribou and
32 preventing local communities from being able to get
33 caribou. The Council stressed that even though the
34 closure may deflect non-Federally-qualified subsistence
35 users to State lands, it's important to take steps to
36 provide an opportunity for subsistence users on Federal
37 lands. And the Council noted this conflict has been
38 going on in this area for many years, and so this is
39 Unit 23, and a lot of discussion around the Squirrel
40 River area in particular. But it seems up until this
41 point the transporters and guides have not shown any
42 inclination to self-regulate and work with local users
43 and resolve the conflict.

44
45 It was noted that the WACH Working
46 Group, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group,
47 represents a broad variety of communities and user
48 groups, and that this proposal is the voice of people
49 from the region. As such, the Council supports this
50

1 request.

2

3

4 So again this proposal was submitted by
5 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Work Group, and their
6 request was to close Federal lands in Unit 23 to the
7 hunting of caribou to non-Federally-qualified users.
8 So only Federally-qualified subsistence users could
9 hunt. And so the Council supported that request.

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There was a lot of discussion, there was an amendment to the proposal that was suggested that would hone in that closure just in the intense user conflict areas. We do have the analysis. Again I agree it's a little difficult to go back and revisit this without providing kind of the context for the action that the Council took. So the Council had discussion about those possible amendments. They recognized the work that went into evaluating the area, so there were some maps.

And we do have some handouts that give a brief synopsis, and that might be helpful to follow along with, too.

So the Council was addressing the suggestions to hone in on a very specific closure where the most intense user conflicts were, and they recognized the work that went into evaluating these areas of most importance to local communities for the harvest of caribou, and that are the site of the most user intense conflicts in the area, but did not support the OSM modification which was that suggestion to hone in on the user conflict area for the closure.

The Council feels that the local harvest is already consuming the harvestable surplus. Communities are growing and perhaps it is time to go into preservation mode. It was noted, however, that it appeared that the OSM modification reflected that those areas were the real problem area for user conflicts.

Chairman Gordon Brower commended the work that went into identifying that specific area as the most critical for local subsistence hunters, and that it has been at the heart of user conflicts in the region for many years, and recognized the effort to find a solution that could be supported by all.

Overall again the Council supported the

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1 original proposal as submitted by the Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd Working Group which was to close all
3 Federal lands to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
4

5 And we do have -- Josh has compiled a
6 handout that helps to summarize some of the new data
7 and also have those maps that were suggested in the
8 modification. One of the reasons the InterAgency Staff
9 Committee, the Staff to the Board, requested that this
10 proposal come back before the Council was additional
11 caribou data, but also that the Western Arctic Caribou
12 Herd Working Group that had submitted the proposal took
13 action on this and amended their own proposal. So that
14 was the request for it to come back to the Council.
15 And we can hand that out that shows the Western Arctic
16 Caribou's action.
17

18 And, again, it's at the wish of the
19 Council if you want to revisit and make a different
20 recommendation.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
23

24 And I'll recognize Josh.
25

26 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
27 members of the Council. For the record my name is
28 Joshua Ream. I'm an anthropologist with the Office of
29 Subsistence Management.
30

31 I did hand out that overview. It's a
32 one pager that includes the new information, both the
33 biological information, much of which Ryan went over
34 with you this morning, as well as some of the actions
35 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. So
36 you can just look through that while I sort of walk you
37 through it here in this presentation.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Josh, what does
40 the paper look like?
41

42 MR. REAM: It has two maps on the back
43 of it, two color maps. Just one page. It may be
44 sitting on the desk there. I have other copies, too.
45

46 So since your Council met last fall,
47 there has been the new information that's emerged on
48 the caribou herd. I'm going to share this information
49 with you and present your Council with the opportunity
50

1 to either maintain or to change your recommendation in
2 Wildlife Proposals WP18-46 and 18-47.

3
4 To review, Proposal 18-46 was submitted
5 by the by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
6 as Eva mentioned. And Proposal WP18-47 was submitted
7 by Enoch Mitchell of Noatak. And they request that
8 Federal Public lands in Unit 23 be closed to caribou
9 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence
10 users. WP18-47 also requests that the closure extend
11 for two years only. And that would be July 1st, 2018
12 through June 30th of 2020.

13
14 The new biological information provided
15 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is depicted
16 in Table 1 of your handout, and this includes the 2017
17 Western Arctic Caribou Herd population estimate of
18 259,000 caribou.

19
20 The WACH Working Group also voted to
21 change the status of the Western Arctic Herd to
22 conservative stable at their 2017 meeting. While
23 population numbers alone indicate liberal management,
24 the Working Group supported maintaining conservative
25 management due to the use of new technology,
26 specifically the digital cameras, and completing the
27 2017 population counts, and because a large proportion
28 of the herd is young caribou that are still vulnerable
29 to harsh winters.

30
31 The Working Group also voted to modify
32 their own proposal, WP18-46 at their 2017 meeting. The
33 group voted to support the 2017/2018 targeted closure
34 for two years only. This area is depicted in map 1 on
35 the back of your handout.

36
37 These handouts are also on the side for
38 anyone else in the room that would like to look at
39 this.

40
41 The Working Group supported the
42 2017/2018 closure area as it was limited to Federal
43 public lands where user conflicts have been greatest in
44 past years while maintaining access for non-Federally-
45 qualified users to the other Federal lands in Unit 23.

46
47 In conclusion, we just wanted to make
48 you aware of this new information, and to provide the
49 Council with an opportunity to change or to maintain
50

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1 your recommendation for both WP18-46 and 47 given the
2 new information. Recommendation options are listed at
3 the bottom of your handout. Any change to the
4 Council's recommendation requires a motion and a vote
5 and will be conveyed to the Federal Subsistence Board
6 before the Board deliberates on these proposals.

7
8 Thank you for your time.

9
10 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions for Josh on
13 new information provided for WP18-46, 47, Unit 23
14 caribou closure proposal.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question
19 here. The WACH, that's the Western Arctic Caribou
20 Working Group? Is that when you say WACH?

21
22 MR. REAM: Yes, sir.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that group is
25 comprised -- I've heard that it's a large group, right?
26 And it comprises of users that the herd gracefully
27 meets to these communities, and those communities that
28 are users of the herd. And so can you describe the
29 WACH group for a little bit?

30
31 MR. REAM: Sure. And I don't know if
32 Eva has it on hand, but last time we had read the
33 membership of that group. It is quite large, and it
34 includes members from a variety of different
35 communities and user groups. So I'll just take a
36 moment here to see if we can find that description if
37 you'd like to hear.....

38
39 MS. PATTON: It's in the.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, if you could
42 say the -- is it a culmination of 38 villages that
43 comprise the Western Arctic Working Group, or what is
44 it? Is it four villages, or what is it?

45
46 MS. PATTON: The breakdown.....

47
48 REPORTER: Eva, by a mic, please.

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Council and
2 Chair. So the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
3 Group is quite a large working group, and it has
4 representatives, and these are the voting
5 representatives serving on the working group. Usually
6 ADF&G, the state biologists are involved, the Federal
7 land managers within the region are involved. But the
8 voting chairs you'll see in the back of the paper.
9 There's ACs involved, and representatives, communities
10 are broken into groups. And so you'll see there's a
11 series of groups that are listed, and there's usually
12 one representative from that series of communities. So
13 there are several Council members that are members of
14 the Caribou Working Group. Steve Oomittuk represents
15 the Point Hope region. Esther Hugo is appointed for
16 the Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut region. And then Wanda
17 Kippi is an alternate for the area that includes
18 Atkasuk. So there are several Council members that
19 serve as voting members on the Western Arctic Caribou
20 Herd Working Group. So they have communities
21 throughout the region. There's conservationists,
22 there's Reindeer Herders Association, there's
23 transporters, there's hunting guides, Fairbanks
24 hunters. And again ADF&G is the organizer, and the
25 following agencies that support the working group.
26 ADF&G and then all the land management agencies within
27 the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, which is
28 BLM, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife
29 Service.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
32 it's good, because -- it's good for me to understand
33 the group's makeup. And when we're starting to look at
34 recommendations and changes and who-all's proposing
35 that in the wake of the movement of the Western Arctic
36 Caribou Herd.

37
38 The second follow-up question I had,
39 how divided are these people? How divided is this
40 group in terms of nay or yeah in terms of the
41 recommendations that are up for reconsideration? Is it
42 50/50. Is it 60/40. Is it 90/10.

43
44 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 apologize. I do not know what the vote was, but
46 perhaps one of the members present that were at that
47 meeting could allude to that information.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
50

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1 Yeah, my apologies. We don't have the exact vote.
2 They function in the same way that a majority vote pass
3 -- the same way as the Council, that a majority vote
4 passes the motion. You know, I think it depends given
5 on the issue at hand that they vote on, that it varies
6 what the overall vote is.

7
8 I don't know if we have anybody that
9 has access to the internet that might know what that --
10 the exact vote was. But again it passed on a majority
11 vote.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
14 Eva. And who from the Council if I may ask
15 attended.....

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair. Or is
18 somebody else going to speak up? Go ahead.

19
20 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah Atkinson.
21 I have the meeting summary from the Western Arctic
22 Caribou Herd Working Group with the results from that
23 vote on WP18-46, If you want that information.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. If you
26 could provide that. We're just trying to understand,
27 you know, what's going on here, and just would like to
28 see the level of support for the recommendations that
29 are -- if we wanted to take up any changes to what we
30 did in the fall meeting.

31
32 MS. ATKINSON: So the numbers on the
33 meeting summary, it was they approved of WP18-46 as it
34 was modified, and the amendment was approved nine years
35 and six nays.

36
37 And then another thing that I thought
38 would help people understand the discussion that went
39 on at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group,
40 when you were asking about representation on that
41 working group, that I was going to point out that Enoch
42 Mitchell is the representative for Noatak, the
43 Community of Noatak, that has been very vocal on this
44 issue of Federal closures, and he was involved in all
45 of this discussion that they had on WP18-46. And maybe
46 Wanda remembers or Esther. I'm not sure if Esther was
47 there, but maybe you remember some of the discussion
48 that went on.

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 Both Steve Oomittuk and Esther.....

3
4 MS. KIPPI: Hello, this is Wanda.

5
6 MS. PATTON:were from.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Wanda.

9
10 MS. KIPPI: Yeah. On this action there
11 was -- I had written no action and it was approved.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe I'm
14 misunderstanding. On the Western Arctic Working Group
15 that you went to the Working Group meeting.....

16
17 MS. KIPPI: Oh, wait a minute. I'm
18 looking at the wrong one. 47. I can't find 46. Hold
19 on. I'm going to go back on hold and look at it again.

20
21 MR. DEWITT: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead there.
24 Is that Brian?

25
26 MR. DEWITT: No, this Neil DeWitt. I
27 actually sit on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and
28 during that meeting the action taken on 46, I was
29 against. And the reason I was against it, I wanted to
30 talk public testimony. I had a letter I was going to
31 read into the record. If you want to hear that now, I
32 could tell you real quick.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it would be
35 prudent, because I'm not too sure if we're going to
36 take up any changes to this, but I think gathering
37 information, it's going to sway what we do here. And I
38 think it's important to make informed decisions. So
39 I'm going to allow that.

40
41 MR. DEWITT: Okay, sir. This is what I
42 wrote. My name's Neil DeWitt. I'm pleased that you're
43 listening to me, but I'm speaking on my own behalf, not
44 as a person on the chair -- or on the Working Group.

45
46 During the Arctic Western Caribou Herd
47 meeting in December, I spoke to reopen the caribou hunt
48 to all Alaskans. With the numbers that Fish and Game
49 gave us at that time, is way more than enough to let

50

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1 everybody use this resource. The rest of the people
2 that are not in that area or the rest of the Lower 48
3 only make up five percent, and the maximum take ever on
4 record at this time was 800 caribou. If you take the
5 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users, the herd
6 would still have -- or if you took that 800 out of the
7 rest of the folks here, the herd would still have more
8 than 16,000 extra animals that's added to the herd with
9 the new numbers that we got.

10
11 The meeting that we had last year, the
12 numbers were 108 -- or, I'm sorry, 198,203 animals.
13 I'm sorry, let me restart. There was 198,000 to
14 203,000 is what the numbers were. This year we had 239
15 to 259,000 animals. So I see no question why the rest
16 of Alaska or the Lower 48 could not use these animals
17 or participate in this hunt. I say open it up to
18 Alaska and the rest of the folks that are non-
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Neil, before I
24 let Neil go, and I appreciate your testimony, were you
25 present during the Western Arctic Working Group's
26 meeting and provided that?

27
28 MR. DEWITT: Yes, sir. I sit on the
29 Anchorage AC and I have one chair that's on the Western
30 Arctic Caribou Herd because of that position. And I
31 was there for the last three years actually.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
34 Neil.

35
36 And I'm going to recognize Steve
37 Oomittuk from Point Hope.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, thank you.

40
41 MR. DEWITT: Thank you, sir.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: I also sit on the
44 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, but I was
45 not at that meeting. Due to health reasons, I did not
46 travel.

47
48 But in the past, you know, the reason
49 we closed it to non-Federally -- well, to non-residents

50

1 was the first time, because, you know, on Federal
2 lands. I mean, they could still come and hunt the
3 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but not on Federal lands.
4 They can put -- too many of the hunters were being
5 dropped off in front of the herd before they migrate
6 south to the villages, and that had been changed -- you
7 know, that's been happening for years and years, and
8 the migration route of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
9 was changing and not coming to the normal villages.
10 Since the closer, the migration of the caribou have
11 been coming back. And, you know, since the population
12 had dropped by more than half, which now they have new
13 numbers that it's still -- you know, 500,000 was the
14 high, 259,000 is just over half of what it used to be.
15 And they're not closing to hunters Outside, you know,
16 they could still hunt, they've just got to go on State
17 land and hunt which is further south. And especially
18 in Unit 23 they can be put in front of the herd. And,
19 you know, that was our biggest concern was where they
20 were going hunting before the migration started coming
21 south and changing those routes.

22
23 But I wasn't at the meeting. They just
24 recently picked an alternate in Point Hope I think.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,
27 Steve.

28
29 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to
32 recognize Jerry from Anaktuvuk Pass.

33
34 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes. On the issues,
35 Proposal WP18-46, submitted by the Western Arctic
36 Caribou Herd Working Group, and Proposal WP18-47,
37 submitted by Enoch Mitchell of Noatak, request that
38 Federal public lands in Unit 23 be closed to caribou
39 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence
40 users. WP18-47 also requests that the closure extend
41 for two years only, July 1st, 2018 to June 30, 2020.
42 And does that include the Central also and also Unit
43 23? Is that -- am I correct?

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Sikvayugak from
46 AKP, maybe I'm not exactly understanding the question.
47 I think the closure that was requested by the Western
48 Arctic Working Group at the time was to do a closure of
49 all Federal lands in Unit 23 only.

50

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1 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: And not Central?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
4 may be able to address that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's the
7 land. It's not based on -- if the Central Arctic Herd
8 went into Unit 23 and hung out over there, I think the
9 law would still, if it were enacted, would -- unless it
10 had a sign on it, hey, we're Central Herd, kill us, you
11 know.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Under the Federal
14 regulations, Federal subsistence regulations, it would
15 be a closure to the hunting of caribou on those Federal
16 public lands. So if it happened that there was another
17 herd -- but I don't think the Central Arctic Herd's
18 ranges that far into Unit 23. So mostly it's Western
19 Arctic Caribou Herd that would be in that Unit 23 area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I hope that
22 cleared it up there, Jerry. If different herds -- you
23 know, once in a while we've seen the Teshekpuk Herd
24 jump over the Brooks Range and run away over there and
25 go fiddle around in some other country. And if they
26 get to be hunted over there. And I think the laws
27 would apply, because they're just caribou. And if the
28 law said that there was no hunting allowed for non-
29 Federally-qualified users, they wouldn't be able to
30 hunt that herd, just because it's in that area. But if
31 they jumped over to the other side where it's allowed,
32 the Western Arctic Herd would -- you know, it grazes
33 Unit 26A and Unit 23, so if the herd were to move over
34 to 26A or in Unit 26, the hunting pressure would still
35 be there. So I think it's based on the unit is what it
36 is.

37

38 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Okay. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Additional questions.
41 I was going to see if Wanda from Atqasuk had maybe
42 accounts of what she saw in terms of the Western Arctic
43 Working Group's decision. And it looks like there was
44 nine for the modification and six against, or something
45 to that effect.

46

47 Wanda, did you want to chime in.

48

49 MS. KIPPI: I was looking at the wrong

50

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1 one. So the -- for the WP18-46 there was a motion to
2 amend 18-46 with a map of 17-03 and it's on one of
3 these pages that I have, with 13 yeas and two nays.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So 13 yeas, 2 nays to
6 amend and use the map that curtailed it to almost it
7 looks like a village area of influence area.

8
9 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's certainly
12 helpful. Is there anything else you wanted to add to
13 the dialogue there, Wanda.

14
15 MS. KIPPI: Let me see. And it said
16 support as written, that's what I had written down.
17 Closure. The closure's going to be last for about two
18 years with modifications I think. That's what I had
19 written.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And
22 there's Ryan from ADF&G. I'm pretty sure he's got some
23 good information as well.

24
25 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, Wanda nailed it
26 there. That's correct. It was passed for two years.

27
28 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. And it was 13 in
31 favor, two opposed.

32
33 And then just so we know, the one for
34 26A and B, which maybe that's what Jerry was thinking
35 about, there was a whole separate one for that. That
36 one just completely failed at the Western Arctic Herd
37 Working Group, which is also -- yeah. Anyways so
38 hopefully that adds a little bit of clarification.
39 Sounds like we've got it there.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

42
43 MR. DEWITT: Mr. Chair. I have.....

44
45 MR. PERSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
46 Brian Person, if I might just add real briefly.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brian. I'm
49 going to recognize you. Bob has graciously declined

50

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1 until you're done.

2

3 MR. PERSON: Okay. I apologize. Yeah,
4 I didn't want to interrupt him, but I just want to
5 point out that the two that voted nay were the only two
6 North Slope residents, and that was Esther and I don't
7 recall who was the representative from -- I believe it
8 was from Wainwright at the meeting, but I could be
9 wrong. But just to provide a little more detail.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We see some
14 affirmatives over here of the naysayers, which I like
15 the naysayers. All right.

16

17 Bob, I'm going to go ahead and
18 recognize you, representative from Wainwright, but also
19 residing in Barrow nowadays.

20

21 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Thank you, Brian.

23

24 And allow me some clarification. On
25 Wildlife Proposal 46, I voted against it at our last
26 meeting, and let me describe my position. Redescribe
27 my position of why.

28

29 Without a closure in Unit 26A that
30 mirrors the closure in Unit 23, I believe that a
31 closure in Unit 23 will divert non-Federally-qualified
32 users to Unit 26A. The increased pressure in 26A is
33 what influences whether Anaktuvuk Pass receives the
34 gift of that herd or not. And so I believe that a
35 closure in Unit 23 will put increased pressure on 26,
36 which will result in Anaktuvuk Pass being negatively
37 influenced. They will not get the caribou that
38 typically come in there from the Western Arctic Caribou
39 herd.

40

41 I have observed tracking data that
42 during the -- when hunting was open for sport hunting
43 that seem to indicate that the Western Arctic Caribou
44 Herd was being prematurely diverted in 26A to the west
45 of the community when sport hunting was happening
46 there. And so I thought -- I believe that a closure in
47 Unit 23 will result in increased pressure in 26A.

48

49 Since the proposal to close 26A failed

50

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1 last year, I couldn't support a closure in 23.
2 However, I was one of the few minorities that it went
3 ahead and passed. Now that we have additional data
4 that suggests the population of the herd has improved
5 dramatically, having -- you know, submitting a new
6 proposal for closure in 26A will absolutely fail,
7 because like Neil says, the population of the herd can
8 support harvest by non-qualified-Federal users.
9

10 In that regard, now that the Western
11 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is asking us to
12 reconsider a proposal to relax restrictions in 23A, I
13 support that. Anything that we can do to relax, this
14 contradicts OSM's recommendation I acknowledge. And
15 the 23A InterAgency Working Group.
16

17 I would -- I'm not going to sponsor or
18 make a motion for a proposal to reconsider this, you
19 know, reducing it from full closure to only two years
20 or to an area recommended, just like the area
21 recommended by the Working Group. I don't think it's
22 my position to make that proposal, but anybody here on
23 this Council who is willing to sponsor a proposal or a
24 motion that will restrict -- I mean, reduce the
25 restrictions on harvest in 23, right now I think I
26 would support it, because it would have a secondary
27 effect.
28

29 It would lighten the pressure on
30 Anaktuvuk Pass.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Always bends my mind sometimes when I want to
34 understand you, but any other discussion. And thank
35 you for providing the additional information on what
36 the voting pressure, and it seems to me like they were
37 pretty much aligned in the vote to modify the closure
38 for Unit 23 to include the site map that kind of
39 depicts an area of influence for Noatak.
40

41 And I kind of agree with Bob that there
42 is an action that's still pending I think for us to
43 close Unit 26A, and I think if we came up with a very
44 cool, logical approach to look at what Noatak is
45 proposing that kind of looks like a village area of
46 influence, and looking at -- you know, here's the deal
47 on some of these issues. Even though there's a large
48 population of caribou, I mean, I think it's still -- we
49 should look at this as conservative management. Even
50

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1 if there was a liberal management, you can deplete that
2 resource, the availability of those resources for a
3 community by deflecting them, by moving them out of the
4 reach of reasonable substance user access by impeding
5 their movement by deflection.

6
7 That is -- if you were to analyze that,
8 and I've made these analytical stuff around Nuiqsut to
9 advocate for mitigation funds for direct deflection of
10 migratory movements of animals where they're normally
11 found and reasonable -- for the reasonable opportunity
12 to harvest them. That's been done. There's precedence
13 there that you can in fact deplete the resource to
14 where Tier hunts in State lands, and look at areas to
15 limit them to Federally-qualified users to making sure
16 those resources are available for food security issues
17 for communities. Even in a liberal management scheme
18 you can do these things. And also minimize and
19 eliminate user conflicts by doing this stuff. The
20 Borough can do it by rezoning if it wants to. But I
21 think it would be better to work with managers.

22
23 We can't control the harvest take, you
24 know. We can't dictate anybody taking the harvest, but
25 we can certainly protect subsistence user access.
26 Subsistence user access. They're key issues, and I
27 think it's important, so I disagree with Bob, but I
28 agree with Bob. You know, there's maybe a term of art
29 that you're going to have to learn how to recognize
30 Bob's thinking here. But, anyway, that's what I think.

31
32 Any other talk about these kind of
33 things, because -- and I want to ask Eva, our
34 coordinator. We still have an action pending on the
35 Unit 26 where the special action was rejected by the
36 dead caribou that publicized it, you know, that came to
37 testify. I could have gone over there and gotten my
38 knife and started cutting it and eating it right there
39 by the way. It was still good. But we still had a
40 regular in the queue an action that is going to
41 probably fail miserably in front of the Federal
42 Subsistence Board maybe if I don't go there myself and
43 advocate for it and talk them to death until they
44 approve it. Anyway, maybe you could enlighten us on
45 that part.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
48 That's correct. So that the Council did submit a
49 special action request, which is a request to the
50

1 Federal Subsistence Board out of cycle, out of the
2 regular two-year cycle for wildlife proposals. And
3 that request was declined by the Federal Subsistence
4 Board. The Council at the same meeting had also
5 submitted a request -- so a special action request asks
6 for enactment of a change in regulations prior to the
7 two-year cycle of regulations. So that was declined by
8 the Board. But the full proposal is in process still.
9 So the Council reviewed and took action on their own
10 proposal, as did the Western Interior Regional Advisory
11 Council, because that Unit 26B is within their hunt
12 area. Those recommendations go to the Board at their
13 April -- the week of April 13th meeting. And the
14 process is for the Chair of each Council to attend the
15 Board meeting and provide the Council's recommendation
16 to the Board.

17
18 So this proposal, all the Federal
19 proposals are still pending and will come before the
20 Board in April. And so no action has taken place on
21 Unit 26A and B request for closure either.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
24 I think it's good to refresh our memory, because we do
25 have new members here as well, what we did last fall I
26 believe with the special action that went to the
27 Federal Subsistence Board. And I was made to
28 understand by one of the Federal Subsistence Board
29 members that it was a nearly 50/50 split, maybe one
30 vote could have swayed that at that time. And that's a
31 God's honest truth, you know, one more guy. If I was
32 there slapping them around, I think I could have swayed
33 that, you know. But in light of the new information
34 that's coming around, and which we need to be very
35 diligent that this is a blip at this point. I don't
36 think we should be dealing with blips in this way to
37 sway the opinions.

38
39 And, you know, I'm still concerned,
40 because there is an action that we've made for Unit 26A
41 and B I believe because based on the population issues,
42 that we had recommended, right, when we're -- we don't
43 make the decision, but we recommend, in our proposal to
44 the Federal Subsistence Board, and they haven't taken
45 that up yet. And they're doing that in April?

46
47 MS. PATTON: That's correct. The
48 Federal Subsistence Board will meet the week of April,
49 and they take up all the Federal subsistence wildlife
50

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1 proposals, and they make the final decision to adopt or
2 oppose,.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

5
6 MS. PATTON:adopt or reject the
7 proposals.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the one thing I'm
10 going to be very, very alarmed, and very, very scared
11 about is OSM. OSM is sometimes -- well, maybe 80
12 percent of the time maybe. OSM will say things and
13 analyze this in a way to sway the opinion against the
14 Regional Council's direction. And it's always alarmed
15 me when I see in a recommendation OSM does not support
16 this in fact, you know, and say those kinds of things
17 when we're trying to do some things that would benefit
18 the community's ability to maintain adequate
19 harvesting, and the issues since we've done a lot to
20 curtail the harvest from these herds to help. We
21 enacted our own traditional laws that we abide by, and
22 put them into law what we normally did anyway. We
23 don't hunt the bulls when it's rutting season, so we
24 cut that out and made it into law, right. We did that.
25 And we make it illegal to hunt the calf accompanied
26 by.....

27
28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Cows accompanied by
29 calf.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, a cow
32 accompanied by a calf. You shoot one of those, you
33 should go to jail. I mean, it's the -- you know, we
34 didn't hunt the -- unless, you know, it was yearling.
35 And in the past people would hunt yearlings and stuff
36 like that for clothing, because, (in Inupiat), they've
37 got good fur for making clothing. So I don't want to
38 reargue and retalk all about that stuff, but that's
39 already happened, because we worked with our own group
40 knowing that ADF&G was going to start visiting all of
41 the communities and say, we're going to just cut across
42 the board here and recommend some laws.

43
44 And the Borough and these Regional
45 Councils were very proactive to reduce the bag limits
46 from 10 and 15 down to 5 I think, and to live with that
47 as a prudent measure of conservativeness.

48
49 Anyway I'm going way too long I think
50

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1 because when we want to try to do something, sometimes
2 we over-justify, and we need to over-justify, because
3 we don't really know what you're going to, you know,
4 put on your big boy pants and go talk to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board to sway those opinions. And, you
6 know, if there was something that OSM was going to do
7 to intervene, I would say, create this map of Noatak
8 all across the North Slope. Create it for the North
9 Slope in lieu of closing Unit 26A and Unit 26B. Make
10 these maps like this for Anaktuvuk, for Point Hope, for
11 Point Lay, for Barrow, for Atqasuk. You do that,
12 you're going to go a long ways to providing the food
13 security issues that have plagued the community, user
14 conflict issues. You do that, and I think it's going
15 to go a long ways to seeing eye-to-eye in the concerns
16 that we raise. Because when -- Unit 26A and Unit 26B
17 is a vast, vast area, and a sweeping change to limit
18 that to Federally-qualified users, and then just roll
19 the dice -- because I think we all roll the dice here.
20 We tend to roll the dice. It's all or nothing almost.

21
22 And I think this is a fantastic
23 compromise in doing this. If it was supported 13 to 2
24 to make that modification by, what was the acronym,
25 WACH? From the WACH group, and that's a big group if
26 you look at the newsletter. They made a comprehensive
27 approach to seeing eye-to-eye and compromise.

28
29 Anyway that's how I would talk to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board. If our proposal goes there,
31 that's what I would go down there and advocate for. And
32 if OSM is going to say no because there's a blip, it's
33 alarming.

34
35 Anyway I'm going way too long. Give
36 the opportunity to Council members to talk about the
37 potential modification to WP18-46.

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. For me,
40 this is very concerning. We put it in to protect
41 concerns coming from Point Lay and Point Hope are
42 related to the units that they're in. And some of the
43 justification is in opposition to protecting those
44 communities in lieu of trying to protect another
45 community in Anaktuvuk Pass. Those are very concerning
46 issues to support one versus the other. I don't want
47 our region to divide ourselves because of efforts to
48 protect one unit versus another unit, to give benefits
49 to our communities. These are very divisive

50

1 discussions that are being put forward. We have
2 different units in village concentrations that are
3 affecting some of these discussions. What we have in
4 the area of Unit 23 versus what we have in the Village
5 of Anaktuvuk Pass are different discussions. And so it
6 shouldn't be put in one versus the other and
7 sacrificing one village for another to hope in
8 protecting.
9

10 We also put forward our own
11 traditional, cultural preferences in our harvesting.
12 I've had hunters come to me and said they're not
13 harvesting female caribou, and they prefer to hunt
14 those, but they have foregone some of these traditional
15 harvest to give hopes in renewal to the concentration
16 of the numbers that we're having available for harvest.
17 These kind of factors are very important when you're
18 looking at the assessments of whether or not we're
19 being successful in this discussion.
20

21 When you isolate some of these
22 discussions for one unit versus another unit in various
23 protective mechanisms, there are those reflections that
24 happen with hunters going -- for flying into Unit 23
25 that change into Unit 20A or 26 -- I mean, 26A or 26B.
26 And yet there are assumptions that are being included
27 in this discussion as to support why decisions are
28 being made, but yet there's got to be some statistical
29 data that shows where those permit changes are
30 occurring in some of this discussion. So without
31 having those supporting numbers, we're making
32 assumptions without the supporting numbers that could
33 be incorporated into this discussion to show, yes,
34 there are deflections from these concentrated efforts
35 of having to try to protect 23 that are now causing
36 increased conflict for Anaktuvuk Pass. And so not
37 having that discussion included here really impacts our
38 assessment of the interpretation of what are we
39 responding to.
40

41 For me, being most protective of our
42 villages and their access to our resources is why we
43 chose the actions that we chose. We didn't come across
44 them because 23 put in their restrictions in. We came
45 across them, because we had multiple herds with
46 populations decline. And we looked at the overall
47 reports of multiple herds to come up with our decision
48 to support efforts to restrict hunting that was
49 occurring by outside non-Federal users in Unit 23. We
50

1 recognized it was going to change with some of the
2 access that is coming in 26A and B, but without getting
3 some of that statistical data, that's very important in
4 this discussion. So I hope that at some point we're
5 going to get some of that information, because it's not
6 being provided. It's being supported in comments of
7 our participants on why they're making decisions.

8
9 So those are two of the hesitations
10 that I have. I don't want us to divide and put in
11 opposition for Point Hope with Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut in
12 some of these discussions. We can't go down to that
13 level of division that this discussion is facilitating.
14 This discussion is facilitating this conflict between
15 our region, and that's very concerning that some of
16 these decisions are being supported without the data
17 because of that.

18
19 I recognize that you guys got involved
20 in some of the discussions that we didn't have fully
21 presented at our meeting here, because of the way that
22 the information was presented with the Western Arctic
23 Caribou Herd Working Group, and that also may have
24 contributed to some of your discussions there. But I'm
25 on the side of being very precautionous.

26
27 And we went through the presentation
28 this morning that showed there's possibilities for some
29 number of improvements to these research projects that
30 show caribou numbers. But we also showed that we have
31 reasons to wait to see is this specificity related to
32 improvements in data collection that allows numbers to
33 be counted that weren't previously counted, or are
34 these real, true improvements to the population.
35 There's questions that are unanswered in that
36 discussion that I say that we should continue to watch
37 what we've already put forward and continue the
38 restrictions that were being supported with this
39 extensive participation to try to protect this herd and
40 these communities.

41
42 But I also know that we put in effort
43 to renew the restrictions for Anaktuvuk Pass with their
44 controlled use areas, but we don't have the discussion
45 as to how that is supporting the concerns for their
46 community and whether or not those protections are
47 being protected, or are we just waiting for more
48 statistical data to show that, I'm sorry, we threw over
49 400 fly-in hunters or whatever that number is going to
50

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1 be that now conflict with the discussion for Anaktuvuk
2 Pass. That's very, very concerning on how this
3 discussion is going.
4

5 We want to be proactive in this
6 discussion. We know by making the decisions that we
7 made, we took food off of families' tables. Many
8 villages had food taken off their table. It's not a
9 light decision that we put forward. It's because of
10 the accumulation of this and the reality that our
11 traditional knowledge knows that if we don't put the
12 protective mechanisms in, the hardship is going to
13 continue for our families. And without having all of
14 the supporting data to show that we should go ahead and
15 jump up, we have others that have come up with
16 different numbers and saying, we should open to other
17 users and hunters to continue to harvest, and we have a
18 surplus data. But we're blurring some of this
19 communication without the supporting data to show, yes,
20 we should do that.
21

22 So I would rather maintain the reality
23 that we put these protective mechanisms in. If we get
24 the reports next year that show that the data is
25 continuing to improve, then I'd be much more willing to
26 accept some changes to these discussions. But we don't
27 have that to fully accept. We have recommendations
28 that are showing that there could be some
29 consideration. It doesn't mean we have to act upon it.
30

31 Others want to continue to come up and
32 harvest, and they will impact our ability for our
33 villages to harvest. We ought to do what we can and
34 allow some of these protective mechanisms to show
35 whether or not they're protective before we jump in and
36 allow the increased risks to come back to our villages
37 who are already going without the food that we need to
38 give us the life, health and safety that we need to
39 feed our families.
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
42

43 Any other deliberations and talk about
44 WP18-46.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to -- you
49 know, I like to remain cautious, and I like to be well
50

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1 informed, and at the same time knowing that this will
2 go before the Federal Subsistence Board, and they're
3 going to -- we're ultimately recommending for a
4 neighbor of ours. We're ultimately just recommending
5 for a neighbor and, you know, our cousins down here in
6 Unit 23. And whether it shifts hunting pressure in our
7 area remains to be seen. More than likely, yeah, it
8 probably would. But when you look at why the original
9 WP 46 was to close all of Unit 23, and was a
10 recommendation from the Western Arctic Working Group.
11 And that was based on the user conflicts that I could
12 remember. And the user conflicts that are, you know,
13 quite alarming I thought, to where you couldn't -- you
14 didn't pass on a traditional hunting experience any
15 more, but you heard your parents cursing, you heard,
16 man, I'm going to shoot that plane down. Those kind of
17 things. That facilitated anger and that did not pass
18 down a traditional hunting experience that I grew up
19 with with many of my siblings and others. But the area
20 is -- that was identified here was passing on
21 arguments. And the traditional hunting experience had
22 been given away to first come, first served, and those
23 kind of things. So we need to be mindful of that.

24
25 At the same time, you know, I see
26 Rosemary's logic here as well. Maybe we don't touch
27 our recommendation at all, and let the Federal
28 Subsistence Board see what our recommendation. Hey,
29 the North Slope guys say, yeah, we agree with Western
30 Arctic Working Group's original look see at this, and
31 close it and try to make sure that the hunting and
32 traditional activities be looked into, and maybe there
33 is an area to designate for sport and other users that
34 would not compete with traditional needs of
35 communities. The traditional hunting patterns, and not
36 ass on arguments, but to pass on love and caring and
37 these things that make up communities. Because the
38 area is vast. There should be other areas to use, to
39 concentrate the non-Federally-qualified users and, you
40 know, personal use, and look at the sanctity of
41 communities use.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. DEWITT: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Josh.

48
49 MR. DEWITT: This is Neil DeWitt again.

50

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1 One of the things -- I have an appointment, I need to
2 go, so I'm going to be hanging up.

3
4 But one other thing I wanted to bring
5 up is while you are considering all this reopening or
6 closing or whatever, keep in mind you've got the Ambler
7 Road that's going to go in. And I went to a meeting
8 where they said there was going to be 30 trucks a day
9 that comes out once that road gets put in. So that
10 means there's at least 30 that are going back in. So
11 that will be 60 trucks a day. Plus you've got all the
12 fuel, all the food, and anything else that they might
13 need out there to build that mine that's going to be
14 running back and forth. And that's going to cut right
15 through the middle of the Arctic herd. So keep that in
16 mind.

17
18 Also, I don't know how many of your
19 folks out there know it, but it's something that you
20 need to start looking at and really getting involved
21 in. They did have an open comment period, but I don't
22 remember what the dates on that were. But I foresee it
23 happening, and it's going to cut right through the
24 middle of that herd, and that's where you're really
25 going to start having problems. It's not going to be
26 with the five percent that the rest of the people in
27 the United States and in the State of Alaska take of
28 the herd.

29
30 But thank you for your time, sir, and
31 you all have a good day.

32
33 Bye-bye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Neil.

36
37 I'm going to recognize Josh before we
38 maybe recess for lunch here.

39
40 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 just quickly wanted to mention, and many of the Council
42 members have already touched on this, but the Federal
43 Subsistence Board can close based on either
44 conservation concern or the concerns related to the
45 continuation of subsistence uses and user conflicts.
46 And the justification for the past couple of closures
47 over the past couple of years has been that
48 continuation of subsistence and the use conflicts. And
49 the maps that were used to develop the targeted closure
50

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1 were based on where we know intense user conflicts have
2 happened over time through public testimony at the
3 Regional Advisory Council meetings, at the Board
4 meetings, and other places.

5
6 The InterAgency group, which is both
7 State and Federal land managers, met after being
8 directed to do so by the Federal Subsistence Board to
9 try to see if that was an appropriate area, or if it
10 should be reduced or expanded. And their
11 recommendation was, the OSM recommendation on this,
12 that it should be expanded slightly to include a larger
13 area, particularly in the northwestern portion of the
14 original targeted closure. So that's where the
15 targeted closure boundaries came from.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to entertain
20 a motion to recess for lunch.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So moved.

23
24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So moved.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Motion
28 for lunch. Seconded. All those in favor of recess say
29 aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We'll be back
34 at 1:15.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 UNIDENTIFIED: So move.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
43 motion on the floor to get out of recess.

44
45 MS. HUGO: Second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It has been seconded.
48 All those I favor of getting back to the meeting and
49 get out of recess say aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 REPORTER: Who seconded?

4
5 MS. HUGO: I did. I'm sorry. My.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Esther.

8
9 REPORTER: Thank you, Esther.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
12 back in business.

13
14 And the last we left we were discussing
15 with Josh, and we discussed the WACH and their vote to
16 amend their Unit 23 proposal by incorporating a map and
17 reducing the size of the area to be closed signified by
18 map 1 I believe. There's map 1 and map 2. Map 2 is
19 OSM's conclusions, and map 1 is the WACH Working Group,
20 and what was supported by them by a vote of 13 to 2 I
21 believe. If that's not the case, let me know. But I
22 believe map 1 is the one that we're talking about.

23
24 There is a difference between map 1 and
25 map 2. Map 2 from OSM explores a greater area to close
26 on the north side; whereas on map 1 from the WACH
27 Working Group show that to be limited to it looks like
28 about -- I don't know if that's a mile on the river on
29 either side. Is it five miles? Five miles on either
30 side of the river, and a larger portion of lands
31 controlled by BLM to the south; whereas map 2 has
32 expanded to the north, not just along the river, but by
33 many different little tributaries to the river, and
34 minimize the area to the south controlled by BLM. BLM-
35 administered lands. So that's the difference I see in
36 that.

37
38 So map 1 is the proposed that they
39 voted on to change their proposal on Unit 23 closure
40 for 18 -- what was the number here -- 18-46. That
41 encompasses map 1. Which before the ones that we voted
42 on last fall was the entire Unit 23 closure at the
43 request of the WACH. So since then they've modified
44 their area to map 1.

45
46 And whether or not we take up some
47 modifications to our recommendation, and our
48 recommendation back in the fall was to help support the
49 WACH and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group,
50

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1 which at the time proposed the entire Unit 23. Since
2 then they've made modification to their special action.

3
4 With that, is there any other
5 discussion we want to have, or is there anything you
6 would like to add, Josh, if I've misspoken in any way?

7
8 MR. REAM: I would just point out that
9 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's
10 recommendation was for that targeted closure, and it is
11 just the two-year time limit. So it's not indefinite.

12
13 The only other thing is that map 2 that
14 was developed by the InterAgency group was developed
15 before the new biological information came out, and
16 before the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
17 made their decisions.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have a question
22 for OSM and making OSM conclusions. Obviously it
23 appears that OSM is advocating for something different,
24 and there's always underpinnings why that is. And
25 there's got to be a reason that you would sway the map
26 movement. Is it for greater inclusion or what was the
27 justification for expanding it to the north and
28 minimizing it in the south. According to me and some
29 of the things that I've heard of the major concerns of
30 conflict is right around those villages right there to
31 the south. And to minimize it considerably from what
32 was recommended by the WACH -- and it should be noted
33 as to why OSM is recommending to make it into a tiny
34 sliver from what the Western Working Group recommended,
35 but expanding way to the north.

36
37 Go ahead, Josh.

38
39 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
40 again this was the closure that was in place last year,
41 map 1. And this is the areas where we had identified
42 the majority of the user conflict over time.

43
44 To get to the area identified in map 2,
45 the Federal Subsistence Board at their meeting last
46 year had asked for a group to convene of both Federal
47 and State land managers. This is what we're calling
48 the InterAgency Working Group. They recommended that
49 we expand farther north along the Noatak there based on
50

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1 some of the land managers' concerns about known
2 conflicts in those areas. They didn't provide us with
3 a lot of justification for that decision.
4

5 There were no meeting minutes from
6 their meeting, but that was their recommendation.
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Well,
9 that's the recommendation without real -- other than
10 there were additional conflicts to the north there.
11 Yeah. And you said this was a closure that was already
12 in place for map 1 from the previous year?
13

14 MR. REAM: Yes, sir. The original
15 closure two years ago was all Federal public lands in
16 Unit 23, and last year's closure was this targeted
17 closure that you see in map 1.
18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe I wasn't
20 paying too much attention over there. I don't live
21 there. Yeah, I do recall that when there was a joint
22 meeting of Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council
23 and the North Slope Regional Advisory Council, was that
24 in 2015 in Anchorage?
25

26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
27 That's correct. That was the winter/spring, March of
28 2016 actually.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It seems to me
31 dates are getting convoluted here. I just want to keep
32 my sanity. I keep thinking that we supported the
33 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council in closure
34 of entire Unit 23 for that one year. Right? And it
35 was passed by the Federal Substance Board. They
36 supported us. And I was pretty flabbergasted. And
37 that was during the period of time there was a lot of
38 concern to going either preservation or extreme
39 conservation measures, where bag limits and all that
40 were all thrown up in the air and tossed around in that
41 fashion. So I didn't know after that that there was a
42 more targeted closure that maybe didn't seek our
43 recommendation or something, unless I wasn't here to be
44 part of that.
45

46 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. I'll just
47 mention that the targeted closure was done by special
48 action. And so we did hold public meetings in various
49 communities, but it didn't -- it wasn't necessarily
50

1 presented as part of the regulatory cycle.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Okay.
4 You know, I'm just one of those that feeds off of
5 information. I like to hear various opinions.

6

7 And is there a recommendation or a
8 similar proposal that the Regional Advisory Council in
9 that area, the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
10 Council on Unit 23 closure, and what was their
11 recommendation?

12

13 MR. REAM: I actually have in front of
14 me, if you're interested, all of the affected Councils'
15 recommendations. Now you're the first to hear about
16 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's
17 decision. So we don't know yet whether or not the
18 other Councils, the Northwest Arctic, the Seward
19 Peninsula, and Western Interior, will make any changes.
20 But at their fall meeting the Northwest Arctic Council
21 did support a closure of all Federal public lands in
22 Unit 23 as did your Council. And this is for the
23 indefinite period. The Western Interior supported the
24 OSM recommendation, so that expanded targeted closure,
25 and that would be indefinite. And then I also have the
26 Subsistence Resource Commissions. The Cape Krusenstern
27 also supported the OSM recommendation, the expanded
28 target of closure. And the Kobuk Valley Subsistence
29 Resource Commission actually supported a targeted
30 closure that was the original, so the smaller amount of
31 land that is now being supported by the Western Arctic
32 Caribou Herd Working Group, but theirs is also
33 indefinite. And now the Working Group is two years.
34 So there's the spacial component in all of these, you
35 know, the full closure, the targeted closure, the
36 expanded targeted closure, and then the two year and
37 indefinite. So both space and time all of these groups
38 have been voting on.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And again I'm a
41 little starved for -- a little confusion on my part
42 maybe, and to clear it up here. The indefinite term,
43 obviously we voted for that, and that was the Unit 23
44 closure. And is indefinite period coming up for vote
45 by the Federal Subsistence Board in April?

46

47 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. That was the
48 original proposal, so it will come in front of the
49 Federal Subsistence Board, and by indefinite -- I mean,

50

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1 it could be changed if a proposal was submitted during
2 the next wildlife cycle to change it, or if it was
3 changed by special action in the interim. It just
4 means that it will be on the books until there's a
5 proposal to make a change.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's what I
8 wanted to understand. Let's say that this modification
9 for two years is kind of like a trump card for that,
10 isn't it. If that Federal Subsistence Board is going
11 to take up Unit 23 closure, this one would supersede
12 the indefinite period to limit it to two years, but for
13 the cutting it down to an area of influence that's
14 being talked about.

15
16 MR. REAM: That is correct. And
17 likewise if it was only a two-year closure, your
18 Council or someone else could propose, if conditions
19 changed or remained the same, to extend that or
20 eliminate that in two years. Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I just
23 want to make sure all of the Council understand, you
24 know, until another proposal comes in to trumps that,
25 or supersedes that, or an action, or something like
26 that. Does a special action plan supersede an
27 indefinite period?

28
29 MR. REAM: A special action would be
30 implemented for one regulatory year. So after the
31 regulatory year, the wildlife regulations would go back
32 into effect unless there was another special action or
33 the -- if we were in a wildlife cycle, there was a
34 proposal to change that regulation. So the special
35 action is for one regulatory year.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So if Unit 23
38 was closed, and the Federal Subsistence Board closed it
39 at the recommendation, a subsequent -- a special action
40 that had a little area to open it this way for a period
41 of one year, after that elapsed, it would go back to
42 being closed.

43
44 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. That is correct.
45 A special action could be used to open the area or to
46 close the area.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. You know,
49 I always like to learn a little bit more and understand
50

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1 clearly what we're juggling here.

2

3 So at this point, the WACH has
4 recommended a change, but the two Regional Councils --
5 or the Regional Councils that's taken up the torch at
6 the request of the WACH, because this was an original
7 -- was this an original request for closure of Unit 23
8 by the Western Arctic Working Group committee?
9

10 MR. REAM: Yes. That was 18-46, and 47
11 was by Enoch Mitchell of Noatak, and that was with the
12 two-year stipulation.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The original. Okay.
15 Now I'm a little bit more concerned, because you talk
16 about an indefinite one. Now, who recommended the
17 indefinite one?

18

19 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. That was
20 originally the proponent, the Western Arctic Caribou
21 Herd Working Group. And since they've gotten the new
22 information and met here in December, they've changed
23 their recommendation on their own proposal to the
24 targeted closure for two years only.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
29 right. I think I kind of understand and asked all the
30 questions I needed and refreshed all my memory back to
31 where I was about last fall. And in doing that, and
32 I'm hoping that Jerry and the new members are now very
33 informed about what was going on back then, what is
34 being requested now, and what OSM is recommending in
35 map 2. And I believe that map 1 is still being
36 advocated by the WACH, right? And OSM is -- had a
37 little bit of consternation over map 1 I presume to try
38 to introduce their own map 2.

39

40 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. I don't believe
41 that OSM has reconsidered the Western Arctic Caribou
42 Working Group's proposed change. In that I really mean
43 that the InterAgency group, the State and Federal land
44 manager group, has not reconvened to consider a
45 different boundary.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
48 right. Well, I'm going to relieve you from any further
49 questioning unless the Council has additional questions

50

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1 for Josh. Jerry.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Yes, thanks for the
4 clarification on that, Mr. Chair.

5

6 Yes, I was kind of puzzled on the Unit
7 23 on the Federal 18-46 closure for two years. And
8 thanks for the clarification.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) We're
11 going to think about these things. It's always good to
12 greatly understand.

13

14 So with that, any further questions for
15 Josh.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, what's the
20 wish of the Council. Do we want to leave our
21 recommendation as is, or do we want to recommend
22 modification of our recommendation to include map 1 to
23 the extent of the closure in Unit 23, or go with OSM
24 and recommend map 2. So I think we don't have to do
25 anything, or we can support -- and I don't know about
26 the Working Group themselves, if their determination
27 was based on the new numbers. Is that the case?

28

29 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. There may be
30 somebody else in the room that's better equipped to
31 talk to that point. I think that the new information
32 is what is driving their new recommendation.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It looks like we've
35 got Ryan coming up. And we do have concern about the
36 new number as well, and not to jump into conclusions
37 just yet. But maybe Ryan can enlighten us on that
38 decision why to change it to a targeted closure versus
39 the Unit 23 as a whole.

40

41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Thank you,
42 Gordon. I think Josh got that correct there. That is
43 why they kind of changed their method there was based
44 on the new number. And, you know, to have a little
45 background on that, the targeted part, those are
46 discussion that was had like in the room that folks
47 agreed on, you know, that would benefit people in that
48 region.

49

50

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1 As far as the sunset clause, you know,
2 where they got two years, there was two trains of
3 thought there if I recall correctly. One was that just
4 like we were talking about earlier, we don't want
5 anything to happen right away with this. You know,
6 this is a new thing. We need at least two years here
7 to kind of like look at things.

8
9 And, two, you've got to remember who
10 was in that room, you know, that was coming to that
11 conclusion. That was people that represent like
12 professional sports hunters. That was all these other
13 people that agreed that, hey, this -- two years, you
14 know, we should probably do that. So I think it was
15 just -- just remember that, too. Like the content that
16 made up that vote, you know, there was some -- it was a
17 really diverse group there that all agreed that, hey,
18 two years of this targeted closure seems to make sense
19 based on the information that we have now.

20
21 Thanks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's good to
24 hear. And before I recognize you, Josh, I just want to
25 say something. When you mention other use groups and
26 working with them, and having my limited contact with
27 Enoch, I think it was -- there's a couple Enochs. I
28 don't know, there's Enoch Shiedt, and there's others
29 from Buckland and other areas. I got to meet several
30 people. It was kind of apparent that the feeling of
31 hopelessness that they're always on an uphill battle in
32 that whatever -- that's just the -- that's a perception
33 I got was like they're lucky to get anything in return
34 out of their group almost, I don't know exactly how to
35 describe it, because of the 30 plus years of conflicts
36 in their region, that it just goes on and on and on and
37 on, and hearing that even from other user groups it's
38 just for two years, it should be indefinite period to
39 me. There should be a sense of community developed out
40 of these kind of things to promote well being in
41 communities to provide a healthy traditional experience
42 to pass on to their groups. And we really need to
43 embrace these things in that way, not look at it as a
44 number.

45
46 Me and you are arguing about numbers a
47 lot. I'm going to argue your ANS. I'm going to argue
48 a lot of different things. Harvestable surplus.
49 Because it leads to the willingness of the State
50

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1 without the rural subsistence priority, the impasse
2 that created a rift between the State and Federal
3 managers, and that manage the lands for all of Alaska,
4 and all the while you still have the tools in your back
5 pocket to manage them in a way that would be
6 beneficial. I've never seen the State use deflection
7 in a term as when you deflect those resources away,
8 you're depleting them even though their management
9 scheme is liberal.

10
11 But the Borough has. The Borough has
12 made determination that the resource has been depleted
13 even though there were thousands and thousands and
14 liberal management scheme, only because the depletion
15 occurred by deflection. It was unreasonable to deflect
16 these resources away from communities that expect them
17 and depend on them for every day, to put food on the
18 table. It's unreasonable to do. State needs to look
19 at that and implement tier level maybe.

20
21 What does Tier I do?
22

23 MR. KLIMSTRA: You know, that's a good
24 question. The tier system, I feel like we've got a bit
25 of a misunderstanding on what the tier system does in
26 terms of what it will do for the community. You know,
27 somebody -- Phil, are you still on the line?

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, I don't want
30 to go into a big elaboration. What does Tier I do,
31 Tier II.

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, he's got a really
34 good description, because he's gone through the process
35 of what it would do exactly and what those different
36 levels are. And I just want to make sure we get it
37 right for you guys.

38
39 So, Phil, if you're there, could you
40 elaborate on that?

41
42 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Hi. My name is
43 Phillip Perry. I'm the regional management coordinator
44 for Fish and Gam. And I think I can help out a little
45 bit.

46
47 When we talk about Tier I as opposed to
48 Tier II, one of the things that happens at that stage,
49 if we're in that -- having a harvestable surplus in
50

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1 that range, is that non-residents of the State would be
2 excluded from hunting. And most of the time that also
3 then would mean that you would be using a registration
4 permit. Not always. It doesn't require that, but most
5 of the time you would be using a registration permit,
6 not always, it doesn't require that, but most of the
7 time you'd be using a registration permit and
8 registration permits allow us to manage harvest if we
9 need to, or if we need to limit harvest. But like
10 right now with the RC907, the other thing that a
11 registration permit allows us to is get a good gauge of
12 what the harvest is and it also gives us, you know,
13 specific people that are hunting, in this case,
14 caribou, in an area.

15
16 So, you know, there's a couple of
17 components to harvest reporting. Part of it is knowing
18 how many animals have been harvested. But another part
19 of it is documenting who's harvesting those animals.
20 Where they live, you know, different communities, and
21 the effort they put into it and those sorts of things.

22
23 So really when, you know, there are
24 times we have harvest -- we have registration permits
25 that were not in this Tier II sit -- or Tier I
26 situation, I'm sorry, that -- yeah, that's at least the
27 short answer. I can elaborate a little more if you
28 want to talk about Tier II. I'm not sure we.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, what then.....

31
32 MR. PERRY:are going down that
33 rabbit trail.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's Tier II. I
36 kind of understand Tier I already.

37
38 MR. PERRY: So Tier II, once you go
39 below that lower threshold of ANS, how it's applied in
40 most cases, and it's applied in wildlife species and in
41 fisheries, people -- residents of the state, it's for
42 residents only, would apply for permits to harvest that
43 wildlife resource, be it moose or caribou. And the
44 harvest -- or, you know, managers would set a quota of
45 how many you want to harvest, so say if we wanted to
46 harvest 5,000 caribou, totally across, you know, the
47 way it's written, is Western Arctic Herd and Teshekpuk,
48 we would give out, probably not 5,000 permits because
49 you would -- obviously because of harvest patterns it

50

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1 would be probably a higher bag limit per person, but
2 you'd give out an appropriate number of permits and
3 those permits are given out based on a person's, a
4 hunters hunt history. So if it's someone that's hunted
5 that area for 30 years they get scored and it's
6 different than like a drawing permit when you just --
7 everybody gets a random chance. Tier II gets scored
8 and it's based on how long a person has hunted in that
9 area, how long a person or someone in their household
10 has hunted in that area, so if, you know, you have an
11 elder living with you that's harvested animals there
12 for 60 years, that goes into the scoring and then it
13 also then takes scoring as far as where you live and
14 where you buy your food and where you buy your gas. So
15 they take all that, you get a score assigned to a
16 hunter and then the top scores get permits.

17
18 So, you know, one of the negatives that
19 we hear a lot of people talk about is, you know, it's
20 an extra piece of paperwork. You would apply for a
21 Tier II permit in the month of November, you would know
22 here -- actually it's coming up very soon, mid- -- mid-
23 February if you got a permit and then that permit
24 would, you know, take effect the next regulatory year
25 and that probably, in your case, would be in July. So
26 it's moving from a -- you know as a registration
27 permit, a pretty easy to participate system with
28 registration permits into a very paperwork intensive
29 planning way ahead sort of system as far as for Tier
30 II.

31
32 So that's a.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is there other
35 tiers now after.....

36
37 MR. PERRY:hopefully.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:that?

40
41 MR. PERRY: No. Tier II is kind of the
42 most restrictive.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. PERRY:harvest regime that
47 occurs.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And, lastly, I
50

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1 just wanted to -- what your thoughts are in the
2 depletion of resources based on deflection for a
3 community, and I don't know -- I don't think you've
4 come across that and the Borough certainly has and it
5 has policies in place for communities on the North
6 Slope, and the resource, even though there are
7 management processes that are outside of the scope of
8 the Borough, the Borough can make a determination of
9 resources that are subsistence resources that are
10 depleted based on actions of others, development,
11 guides, and effectively displaces those resources.

12
13 So have you come across something to
14 deal with in that nature?

15
16 MR. PERRY: So I guess I'll just say
17 that, you know, the question of caribou deflection,
18 when it comes to -- lots of different things when it
19 comes to development, when it comes to hunting parties
20 and all that, is a very complicated and difficult
21 question to answer. It's not something that I think
22 right now anybody has a perfect answer to and there are
23 other people that are much more qualified to answer
24 that than me. But I certainly don't have the expertise
25 or the experience to answer that very well.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And that's
28 fair. I think we just try to understand because some
29 of the villages are in front of State lands and some
30 villages are in front of Federal lands and we've always
31 tried to work with the State to align regulations and
32 seems to me the State would want to capitulate in
33 working together when we have bent over backwards, I
34 think in some cases, to align regulations so that
35 they're more aligned, and to try to find ways of
36 community's needs.

37
38 With that I'm going to -- is there any
39 other questions that.....

40
41 MS. ATKINSON: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

44
45 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah*.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
48 Hannah.

49
50

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1 MS. ATKINSON: I wanted to add to the
2 discussion about what the justification for the Western
3 Arctic Caribou Herd working group, I think that the new
4 census data was a part of why they made this most
5 recent decision. But I think there's also been other
6 conversations in public meetings and justification for
7 that smaller area that was in place during 2017. I
8 know that in the Kobuk Valley SRC meeting one of the
9 justifications given is that, Enoch Mitchell from
10 Noatak, said that the closure that was in place during
11 2017 worked for Noatak and he felt that they had seen
12 positive results in their community being able to get
13 caribou. And so from those comments at those meetings,
14 I think that that's also in play during this
15 conversation, is, what works as far as solving the
16 issues that caused this idea for -- or the proposal for
17 Federal closures to come up.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
20 Hannah. I think that's important to note. Was that
21 Hannah?

22
23 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, okay.

26
27 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Very
30 good. So I'm going to see if there's any additional
31 questions to Ryan or Josh.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Having no
36 additional questions for you, what's the wish of the
37 Council. Do you want to take up -- revisit the
38 recommendation, leave it as is, adopt Map 1 for it in
39 lieu of that, or Map 2.

40
41 I'm still concerned about, even the
42 Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group's decision to
43 use the new data, being that it's so fresh without a
44 trend, and I would really love to see a trend occur,
45 even though this is very positive and good news,
46 there's still the issues about conflicts, and user
47 conflicts and -- and I would still think that the herd
48 should be managed very conservatively today and really
49 think closely for managers and thinking about a very

50

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1 logical way of managing the lands that include the well
2 being of communities and the availability of these
3 resources for those communities in a way that doesn't
4 provide user conflict or minimize it to the extent that
5 it's negligible.

6
7 So what's -- I'm going to leave that to
8 the Council. I think we are well informed now. We've
9 talked this over from every angle that we possibly
10 could and leave it at that.

11
12 What's the wish of the Council.

13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair, this is
15 Rosemary. And I think that we should take no action on
16 this. We put in a very protective mechanism in trying
17 to work with this. We have efforts to influence our
18 decision and to put some hesitancy and changing the
19 responders on the maps, but our effort was to protect
20 Unit 23 as a whole, recognizing the two communities
21 from our Council that are very concerned about it, as
22 well as the other communities around this area that we
23 put the recommendations in.

24
25 We have information that is going to be
26 -- continued to be gathered that can influence our
27 future decisions in this. We have to come back and
28 revisit it at the next process with other proposals
29 that are being considered. But we were trying to be as
30 protective as we can. Because we knew that we were
31 impacting our families and their ability to put this
32 food on their tables.

33
34 But we knew that if we didn't take the
35 precautions, that the impacts to our villages and our
36 families was going to be longer, and that was a key
37 determiner as to why we made the decisions that we
38 made, it was to try to bring back the longevity of our
39 concerns.

40
41 We will have additional data that comes
42 to us as we continue to look at these issues. We're
43 going to have other proposals that come to us in future
44 meetings that will look at changing some of these
45 discussions but we do have support from both entities
46 that looked at the reasoning to limit the harvest from
47 outside, from -- to our Federally-qualified-subsistence
48 users and we are impacting our families already with
49 the recommendations that we put forward. But we do

50

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1 this in hopes that we're going to prevent the longevity
2 of these concerns. We know we have changes that are
3 being proposed by our state and our region and there's
4 efforts to put a risk factor that's going to greatly
5 impact this region when they move forward with some of
6 these planning efforts with that road that could go
7 through here. And until we see what's going on, if we
8 can't come back and change the protections that we put
9 in place with this effort by weakening it and that's --
10 I'm not willing to continue to impact our families
11 without, you know, really taking the strong protective
12 mechanisms that we put forward in this discussion.

13
14 So my recommendation is to do no
15 action.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq),
18 Rosemary.

19
20 You know, I think we started this with
21 a big heavy heart to deal with and to provide food on
22 the table and provide meaningful traditional activities
23 from our communities all the while that we knew at the
24 time that the caribou declines were upon us, where
25 harvest bags were already compromised, we've already
26 made traditional -- where we do traditionally into law
27 already and work towards that end.

28
29 So I think -- I tend to agree with
30 Rosemary, we just be steadfast, maintain a strong
31 position like this and the folks that are going to have
32 to deal with it because I think if we reduce our
33 language to just target it and they're already
34 thinking, ah, we're compromising now at this point, so
35 that even if we're compromising at this point and
36 they're trying to justify the blip as a trend into a
37 larger more liberal management scheme, that they quite
38 possibly do away with the targeted approach.

39
40 So I tend to agree with Rosemary that
41 we deliberated on this and we had a lot of substance in
42 our dialogue to support it and based on a mere blip,
43 without a trend, scientists would say, no, don't do
44 anything yet. We often have to take serious -- very
45 serious and comprehensive assessment and tally of the
46 resource. There's another word that's at the tip of my
47 tongue and I'm not getting it, it's about counting
48 animals -- to -- about our whales. And to even
49 increase the quota of the whale based on a census and
50

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1 the whale watching under the International Whaling
2 Commission, I mean this is just an example of trying to
3 increase that quota even by five or something like
4 that, to our communities, is a monumental effort. The
5 count couldn't be more persuasive and relied upon when
6 you have a scientific methodology and a trend to back
7 that up. And if I were to go to IWC with a mere blip
8 and they would probably have a lot of questions as to
9 the validity without additional confirmations. I'm
10 just afraid that the Western Arctic Working Group is
11 persuaded in a way that -- that doesn't yield to
12 scientific methodology in looking at trends.

13
14 With that, any other Council members
15 want to chime in.

16
17 I'm with Rosemary and I think we be
18 very cautious and I'd like to have several consecutive
19 censuses that really start to speak to us.

20
21 And at the same time we still need to
22 address user conflicts and things like that.

23
24 So, yeah.

25
26 Steve, from Point Hope.

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Was that in the
29 form of a motion.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: I would second that
34 motion.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
37 the floor by Rosemary to.....

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Take no action.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:take no action
42 to revisit the RAC's recommendation on, is it WP18.....

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: 46/47.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER:46 for Unit 23.
47 Seconded by Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

48
49 Discussion.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
6 called for. All those in favor of having no action and
7 no modifying our recommendation for WP18-46 as the
8 Council signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
13 same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
18 The Council will not modify its recommendation at this
19 time.

20

21 Thank you, Josh.

22

23 MR. REAM: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm going to
26 yield to Madame Coordinator Eva to reorient us on our
27 agenda.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
30 we are down to agency reports now. We have at the top
31 of our list -- we did maintain a placeholder for tribal
32 governments and Native organizations. I don't believe
33 they were able to join us today. They had expressed
34 some interest but noted that there were other meetings
35 going on.

36

37 So just want to check on line if we
38 have any tribal governments that have joined us this
39 afternoon by teleconference.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. PATTON: Or any representatives
44 from ICAS.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. PATTON: I don't believe so. So
49 they did note that there was lots going on this week so

50

1 they may not be able to participate.

2

3 Next on the agency reports was Arctic
4 National Wildlife Refuge. And just to let the Council
5 know, too, that over lunch, we did get a reply, at the
6 Council's request, we reached out to the Solicitor for
7 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, he's not
8 able to participate by teleconference but he did
9 provide written reply that Robin was able to get on her
10 email, if the Council would like that response from the
11 Solicitor as well. At any time the Council wants to
12 take that up we have that reply.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got to press my
15 button, thanks Rosemary.

16

17 National Wildlife Refuge folks.

18

19 All right, Vince, have at it.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Vince Mathews
22 representing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as their
23 subsistence coordinator. You're going to be getting a
24 handout but I got a couple of updates above that as
25 she's handing it out.

26

27 One is, we do have now a permanent new
28 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Steve
29 Berendzen, my former boss. He was the Refuge manager
30 for Yukon Flats, is now the -- well, the permanent
31 Refuge Manager of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I'm
32 pretty sure Lee has met him, I'm not sure if other
33 members have.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's his last name
36 again?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Berendzen.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: He has a long history
43 with Refuges. If I remember correctly it's about 30-
44 plus years. He obviously worked at Yukon Flats Refuge
45 but he was also regional supervisor for Refuges in
46 Region 6, you know, down in the Colorado area. He was
47 Refuge Manager at the arsenal down there in Denver. So
48 he comes with a long history with Refuge. So, anyways,
49 he's the new manager, possibly he'll be at future

50

1 meetings but there's a lot going on with that Refuge.

2

3 I also want to share with you that, in
4 general, the Refuges I serve, Kanuti, Yukon Flats and
5 Arctic, we tend to have a more robust summary at the
6 fall meeting than at the winter meeting so it's quite
7 reduced, this one, but if there's additional
8 information you want we can always add it or, you know,
9 target to your requests at each meeting.

10

11 I didn't give you a full explanation of
12 the Porcupine Caribou Harvest program or project that
13 I'll be involved with. That will be a tribal wildlife
14 grant, it's not for sure that it's -- you know, it's a
15 grant, it has to be approved and it would be with the
16 tribes of Kaktovik, Venetie, and that would be the
17 combination of Arctic Village and Venetie Council, Fort
18 Yukon, and I'll just be part of that writing team to
19 write up that grant and then hopefully it will succeed
20 in getting approved. That's to address the concern on
21 needing more accurate data, your lengthy discussion
22 this morning, for the harvest of that herd, looking at
23 how they do it in Canada.

24

25 So that gives you an update more than
26 what's on the page.

27

28 Real quickly, you can see there that
29 the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a
30 cooperative effort. You can look at all the various
31 governments that are involved as well as land claim
32 agreements and local residents from communities in
33 Alaska and Canada. It's managed by the International
34 Porcupine Caribou Herd Board, and that is
35 representatives of Canada, US, Yukon and Northwest
36 Territories. And you can see down there the examples
37 of the works that are being done. And Lee's probably
38 more up to speed on these than I am but you can see the
39 bulleted items of capture and radio-collaring caribou,
40 purchasing the radio-collars, et cetera. You can see
41 that there's a lot of, you know, monitoring of that
42 particular herd.

43

44 You can also see in the next paragraph
45 that it looks like the decline, you know, in the 1990s
46 and early 2000s has changed, it's now increasing, with
47 the most recent aerial photo census in July 2017
48 showing that it is now at a level of 218,000 caribou,
49 which is the highest population ever recorded for this

50

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1 herd. And you can go into the other data, I think I'll
2 leave that up to you guys to look at. And, of course,
3 Lee, is your key contact on that information.

4
5 And then I'll just hit some other quick
6 points.

7
8 And, Lee's already touched upon some of
9 this, but, basically, in January of this year most of
10 the herd was wintering in the southern Brooks Range
11 between Arctic Village and the Dalton Highway. Caribou
12 distribution, this winter, extends further westward
13 than it has generally been in the case in the past, and
14 you've mentioned that in your discussion about -- I
15 think you said caribou jumping over the Brooks Range --
16 love to get a picture of that.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: But the point is, is they
21 move around and that, so this is giving you an idea
22 that this seems to be a little bit different than in
23 the past.

24
25 So I'll move on to the moose. And I'm
26 almost certain that Lee brought up, you know, that
27 there's only two permits issued and that one moose was
28 harvested this year. And I think he indicated they
29 will be looking at going out for the second moose. You
30 can see that there's not a lot of moose in the area and
31 most of the moose observed in the upper tributaries of
32 the Kongakut River drainage, which is a long distance
33 from the village of Kaktovik. So the Arctic Refuge
34 Manager authorized two permits for subsistence harvest,
35 a bull moose in the Kongakut River drainage, and I
36 already mentioned that one was harvested. So it is a
37 major effort and the Refuge is recognizing Kaktovik's
38 needs as all the issues you discussed about caribou,
39 whales, seals, et cetera. You guys have done an
40 excellent job for me, personally, showing that we can't
41 just look at one species in singular, we have to look
42 at all species because it's a subsistence economy.

43
44 Anyway, so you can see that there and
45 then I don't know, you can read on your own, survey of
46 south side of the Brooks Range.

47
48 Okay.

49
50

1 With muskoxen, they just don't seem to
2 stay over here. So no survey was conducted, however,
3 one bull muskoxen was seen on the coastal plain during
4 the April moose survey and then, again, Lee kind of
5 indicated that, that no visitors -- you know, visitors
6 are out there, no visitors or Fish and Wildlife Service
7 Staff reported observing muskoxen in the Refuge this
8 summer.
9

10 Any questions about muskox. I know you
11 guys discuss that on and off. But I'll wait.....
12

13 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Lee,
16 from Kaktovik.
17

18 MR. KAYOTUK: I know we got at least
19 three or four muskox now are wintered in the HulaHula
20 at this time along with probably like maybe 70 caribou.
21 But they overwintered on the HulaHula, like 40 miles
22 from Kaktovik.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, so there is a
27 special hunt for that muskoxen. I'm the one that would
28 be issuing those permits but there has to be a certain
29 number in there and they just don't come over and so
30 there is that available and, again, it's a very limited
31 hunt when the population is up at that level.
32

33 Sheep is a continuing interest for this
34 -- well, for Kaktovik, but also for other areas of the
35 North Slope and all along the Brooks Range. So you can
36 see there that in 2016 Fish and Wildlife Service and
37 National Park Service biologists collaborated on a
38 trial of aerial transect surveys covering 4,000 square
39 miles in the center of the Brooks Range. The survey
40 area included the HulaHula watershed on the north side
41 of the Brooks Range and the Arctic Village Sheep
42 Management area on the south side. Population estimate
43 for the area was -- well, I'll modify a little bit,
44 3,300 with a confidence interval of 95 percent, while a
45 density of .83 sheep per square mile or -- yeah, we'll
46 just leave it at square mile. The ratio of lambs to
47 ewes was .30. I'm pointing this out because you had
48 addressed with the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
49 closure, and that is before the Board, and may be
50

1 before you many more times. Hopefully not but it may
2 be.

3
4 So, anyways, that was the 2016 data.
5 You can see here the 2017 data. They used that same
6 method but a smaller area and extending more to the
7 eastern edge of the 2016 survey to Canada border. The
8 survey produced 2,000 total sheep, confidence interval
9 again at 95 percent, and a density estimate of .55
10 sheep per square mile. They quickly point out -- this
11 was put together by our lead biologist for the Refuge,
12 one reason for the difference, because he wanted to
13 point out why there is a difference between these
14 density estimates was that the 2016 survey included the
15 HulaHula where sheep density is generally higher than
16 the average throughout the remainder of the Refuge.
17 It's unlikely that the sheep population actually
18 declined between 2016 and '17. And if you have
19 questions on that I'm sure there's a couple of
20 biologists behind me that can address those. But the
21 whole point of it is, is they're pointing out that it
22 was a different area and that but it's not indicating a
23 decline. The ratio of lambs to ewes during the 2017
24 survey increased to .43.

25
26 So they're planning to survey the
27 remaining one-third of the sheep habitat of the Refuge
28 during July 2018.

29
30 Although the results of the transect
31 surveys are not directly comparable with the methods
32 used in previous years, sheep abundance seems to be low
33 compared to the numbers seen during 2000 to 2010,
34 however the land abundance was relatively high during
35 both 2016 and '17, suggesting that the population may
36 be in the process of recovery.

37
38 So, with that, that concludes, you
39 know, giving you kind of an update and, as, always, if
40 there's anything else you would want to know from this
41 Refuge or Fish and Wildlife Service, in general, I
42 would be the point that would go out there and knock on
43 people's doors to make sure it gets back to you.

44
45 So I'll leave that, if there's any
46 questions.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you,
49 Vince.

50

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1 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's to Vince.
4 Jerry from Anaktuvuk.

5

6 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes. Apparently what
7 surprised us that we're getting some muskox into our
8 area just about every year. And as for Marcy, she was
9 up there just recently last summer doing some sheep
10 count and according to the documents here, the age,
11 sex, and composition were not conducted during 2016 and
12 '17, but they were up there last summer doing a sheep
13 count.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, with muskox, my
16 more background is in Interior Alaska, yeah, one showed
17 up near Galena and our phones were ringing, what is
18 this animal, what is, you know.....

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. MATHEWS:can we hunt it, can
23 we do this, what about that and et cetera, so they do
24 roam around, the muskox.

25

26 The point of this is, is that, there
27 was a subsistence need or desire with muskox on the
28 North Slope in 26C, established hunt was there to
29 provide that need but the population hasn't been high
30 enough to allow that to go, that's how it relates to
31 you guys. I've heard all the discussions about
32 interference between muskox and others, I'm not
33 ignoring that but just pointing out what we have in the
34 book.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jerry.

37

38 Was that pretty good for a response.

39

40 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: (Nods affirmatively)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Additional questions.
43 Lee from Kaktovik.

44

45 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I noticed
46 last summer -- and I mean I wish they could open it by
47 the Canadian border because we see -- we thought it was
48 a herd of 50 caribou but it was a herd of 51 muskox in
49 that area. You know, just how -- you know it's been

50

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1 closed for many years in our area but, you know, if it
2 was like the moose population, you know, some people
3 wish it would come back and hunt in that location of
4 muskox just for that area only for, you know, just for
5 the caribou in our area is pretty scare, you know, we
6 got to go miles and miles, so does a moose, you know,
7 but, you know, if it's available down the road or
8 sometime you know there's a few people that would be
9 interested. And, you know, with the population that's
10 opened in that area they should open it up for -- to
11 harvest any/or muskox.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: On that note, yes, from
16 my view of this, which is mainly through the proposal
17 process, that would have to be a proposal because the
18 current season is based on a percentage of the
19 population or something similar to that. And, boy, I'm
20 really straining my memory now because that's been
21 closed so long, that it has to be like over 300 muskox
22 present. But the parameters before us now would not
23 allow a limited hunt on there so you'd have to -- you
24 know, the 50 or whatever, shows up, it would have to be
25 a special action. The counter to that would be looking
26 at the entire muskox population, I assume -- I mean
27 they don't recognize Canada and United States, they
28 just don't, you know, see that line, so it would be
29 looking at the entire populations.

30
31 But the way to get that opportunity
32 there, not saying it'll get passed, would be through a
33 proposal.

34
35 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. So how --
36 that works like through -- now, we're getting into the
37 Yukon government after the Arctic National Wildlife
38 Refuge, now we're getting into the population of the
39 Yukon government, will that be seen as a border
40 population you think?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: I have zero background on
43 how this would interface with the Yukon. That's why
44 I'm excited to be involved in this Porcupine Caribou
45 Herd because they have pressures on their resources,
46 I'm not going to say it's heaven over there or hell.
47 What I'm trying to say is they have a different way of
48 looking at things and, of course, they have First
49 Nation status so I'm real excited to learn that and to
50

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1 work with them. I did meet with their surveyors many
2 years ago, we did a joint training together and was
3 quite impressed with them. So that was a training with
4 Fish and Game on how to conduct surveys, household
5 surveys on harvest.

6
7 So, yeah, I don't know how that would
8 work with that. I don't think we have any
9 international agreement with muskox but if someone else
10 knows please speak up but I don't think we do with
11 muskox.

12
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Vince.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thanks,
16 Lee.

17
18 Rosemary.

19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We brought in
21 discussion from Nuiqsut about the concern that we had
22 seven muskox hit on the Dalton. With that kind of
23 number, we would expect that there may be some
24 recruitment from the population that's along the Dalton
25 that may go into the Kaktovik area. But that kind of a
26 hit to the population numbers would prevent the
27 consideration for harvest because we didn't ever get to
28 the accepted level of population.

29
30 But do we have some projection as to,
31 with that kind of a hit, how long, you know, we've
32 already been looking at trying to conserve this
33 population for decades but, yet, this is a major hit in
34 that conservation effort and how much of an impact for
35 longevity on some of these discussions. I think that
36 with that species it is very concerning.

37
38 But we also have changes to the Arctic
39 National Wildlife Refuge with efforts to drill and some
40 of the protective mechanisms that we put into that
41 Refuge because of the designation that has now been
42 lifted provides a lot of concern over population
43 managements when -- when we went through in looking at
44 some of the protection mechanisms we had for Nuiqsut
45 with the conservation unit, these are very important
46 protective mechanisms that really look at our planning
47 for the region. And, yet, now, we're -- you know we
48 have two major units that have been changed with
49 protective mechanisms being cancelled, but, yet they

50

1 were very contributory towards some of the decision-
2 making criteria because you could look at these large
3 swaths of area that had protections and now they're not
4 being protected and it's on both sides. So we're very
5 concerned about what's going to happen.

6
7 And then also with these changes to
8 increase the development process through the Refuge,
9 how is that going to affect the continued research and
10 monitoring because if you're going to change it and
11 allow drilling, you know, some of the mechanisms that
12 gave us the research and monitoring was because it was
13 a Refuge.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there's quite a few
18 questions you have in there.

19
20 The first one is based on we don't have
21 much data on the muskox for quite a few years that you
22 said -- seven muskox taken out of this population that
23 we don't really have a lot of numbers on, possibly
24 could have an impact, but, again, are they moving
25 around in large areas and that, so I wish I had more
26 information about the population in the Yukon
27 Territory. There may be others on Staff, I'm just not
28 aware of that.

29
30 So number 1, my speculation, yes, it
31 would have an impact.

32
33 The second thing on the development and
34 that, yes, that's front and center right now with the
35 Arctic Refuge and that. And I'll just give my own
36 personal opinion on that, there would be a lot more
37 monitoring because of the fact is, I would assume
38 because there's going to have to be all these review
39 processes that have to go through NEPA, all that other
40 stuff so there would be increased monitoring on that
41 level. Say the development goes through, you would
42 know better how much monitoring increase, or decrease,
43 or change or staying the same in other development, you
44 know, resource development areas. But I would project
45 that there will be a lot more focus on it once we get
46 to several steps later. Right now before us is the,
47 you know, what do they call it where they sound waves,
48 I can't think of it right now.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seismic.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Seismic studies is front
4 and center. And then from there would be going into
5 the actual development.

6

7 This is an international and national
8 issue so it is on the radar screen for multiple
9 agencies, in particular, front and center would be Fish
10 and Wildlife Service.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a follow-up on
13 Rosemary.

14

15 What's the seven muskox, what, did
16 somebody kill them or something?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: That's new to me and
19 actually when I get back, you know, like I said I'm
20 going to be working up in Cold Foot, so I know some of
21 the people that, you know, do the highway and say what
22 happened here and your request -- I didn't get back to
23 your other request that you brought up earlier and I --
24 someone else can correct me, probably Fish and Game
25 could probably correct me better, you were talking
26 about salvaging -- let's just call it, I can't use a
27 better term, a roadkill, they may know better, but in
28 my area you contact, I believe it's Fish and Game and
29 the Troopers and then you're on a list. This is way
30 out in nowhere kind of compared to Fairbanks and that.
31 So I would guess there's some way of approaching on
32 salvaging that. Now, is it still salvageable, I don't
33 know how long ago, the location, et cetera. So maybe
34 somebody from Fish and Game or others can give a key
35 contact. I don't know if it's DOT -- well, I shouldn't
36 say -- well, DOT.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: But anyways, I mean it is
41 a major point and I am wondering -- while he's
42 researching, I'm giving him more time.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: You would be amazed, the
47 visitors, when they come back down and stop in the
48 visitor's center, the first thing is they saw muskox,
49 nothing else really happens. I mean I shouldn't say it

50

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1 that way but that's the first thing out of their mouth,
2 because we'll say, well, how did it go, ohhh, we saw a
3 herd of muskox, and that was the one.
4

5 And then because I have to deal with
6 things like this, I'd ask how many. And hopefully Lee
7 will chime up on this, 15, 13. So anyways it's a major
8 point for people in their once in a lifetime travels.
9

10 And on that there's visitors from -- I
11 haven't finished counting all the countries but it's
12 over 50 countries that voluntarily sign in, they're not
13 -- we don't ask them to do it, Uruguay, China, Taiwan,
14 Japan, Uruguay, all over the place. It's fascinating
15 working and talking to -- New Zealand. Great
16 conversation.
17

18 Anyway, did you get enough time.
19

20 (Laughter)
21

22 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. So I take it the
23 question was about salvaging those seven muskox.
24

25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.
26

27 MR. KLIMSTRA: And Fish and Game is
28 aware of those muskoxen, they're kind of, you know,
29 looking into like what happened. To my knowledge, so
30 far, it seems like maybe there was a vehicle collision,
31 which seems to like, jeez, that'd be pretty easy to
32 track down, right, I mean if you're hitting that many
33 muskox and I think four died and there was three others
34 that were injured or something along those lines, it
35 seems like it would do a lot of damage.
36

37 But, anyways, the way the State views
38 roadkill is any wildlife killed or injured by a vehicle
39 belongs to the State. If your vehicle hits and injures
40 or kills a big game animal, you must notify the Alaska
41 Wildlife Troopers as soon as possible. In terms of
42 beyond that, I don't know what the Troopers would do in
43 this case because that's such a rare event. But like
44 in, say, the Fairbanks or Anchorage area, there is a
45 list, there's a list they get on. But I think it would
46 just be the discretion of the Troopers at that point,
47 in terms of salvage.
48

49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thomas Napageak came
50

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1 back from driving the Dalton and on his way back he
2 came across the animals that had been killed and so he
3 brought the discussion to Nuiqsut right before we came
4 to the meeting and so I brought it into my report that
5 you weren't able to stay for because you had to go to
6 the director's meeting. But one of our hunters
7 witnessed the animals that had been killed and then
8 later on we got a report that we could contact Prudhoe
9 Bay to get them. But I wanted to make sure that they
10 work with our tribe and try to allow us to harvest some
11 of that resource, but also question about the rest of
12 the -- my ex-husband uses the muskox skin that we got
13 with permit hunts, still to this day, for the (In
14 Inupiaq) like we do our tuttu skins, and those kinds of
15 things are very important as well as utilizing the skin
16 for mask making and other factors. So, you know, they
17 only offered us the meat but communicating above that,
18 that we could utilize them in many different ways, our
19 mask makers. I shared this -- the one skin that we
20 didn't cut into, the skin to use, for our
21 (indiscernible) we shared with multiple skin sewers who
22 make masks and use that hair to make special features
23 that go on to our mask making process. And it is a
24 very special resource that -- it isn't common for us to
25 access and be able to utilize but we do have many that
26 use it.

27
28 I have request ever since we got that
29 first permit, from hunters and sewers statewide, that,
30 do you have any more, do you have any more, and I know
31 that we could use them in different ways. But if we're
32 not able to get it that's a concern.

33
34 But making sure we maximize the
35 utilization of that meat, I mean not everyone prefers
36 it but we also recognize there's so many communities
37 that aren't getting enough that we don't want to just
38 let it waste and if we can work with the tribe to
39 improve the distribution, that contact should occur.
40 Recognizing Kaktovik and their efforts and their
41 failures to get any of those permits, you know, another
42 reason to work with the tribe from their community to
43 utilize this.

44
45 But that's where my thoughts were
46 coming from, is that we want to maximize what we can do
47 with this because they were a loss to the population
48 and we're not able to go out and hunt them and these
49 kinds of things are very important with our traditional
50

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1 and cultural uses.

2
3 I have others that talk to me about
4 collecting the qiviut for the yarn making and that. I
5 have people asking me all the time did you collect any,
6 did you collect any. When we can, we collect it off
7 the bushes as we're out doing other huntings because
8 the animals move through these various areas. But if
9 we were able to access that resource, you know, I know
10 we have the one entity that works with the other
11 communities around their muskox utilization. But, you
12 know, making sure that we try to take advantage of
13 what's there. We know we can't get them without the
14 permits, we have the support of that process for a long
15 time. But this is a unique event where there is a
16 resource and there are things that we would do with it
17 if we're allowed to.

18
19 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Rosemary.
20 Those are excellent points there. I wish more things
21 were made out of muskox because I do think they taste
22 very good as well.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-oh, Ryan has a
27 good taste for muskox.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He must have got a
32 share.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I love it too.
37 It's pretty good. I've had a taste of it a long time
38 ago. But, anyway, you should do more to -- where did
39 you guys bring them over from, from Greenland or
40 something, back in 1969.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then stopped.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And so that seems
49 like you guys didn't bring enough to make a viable
50

1 population to hunt.

2

3 Just one other thing, if I may, Vince.
4 The North Slope Borough received a lot of complaints in
5 the fall time of commercial recreational activities
6 around Kaktovik. And I had sent a couple of our
7 inspectors to Kaktovik to take a look at what was going
8 on and we ended up giving out several citations and
9 found out some of these operators have decided that
10 they don't need North Slope Borough permits and in some
11 cases, I think they mentioned that they have a Refuge
12 permit. And I would like to find a way that we can
13 coordinate because we're planning in our dialogue with
14 the community Mayor, the city Mayor, wanted a workshop
15 of the Borough's regulatory process. The planning
16 departments to do a workshop with how you can apply for
17 permits, how you could make complaints, how to work
18 with the Department to effect permits and things like
19 that. So we're planning on doing that and we'd like to
20 collaborate with the Refuge folks, maybe do it jointly
21 or something to that effect, from the North Slope
22 Borough Planning Department.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that would be
25 excellent. I'm distant to that other than I know that
26 there's a Staff person who's spending a lot of time and
27 I don't know of Lee's background on this. But there's
28 a whole polar bear viewing strategy plan and all that
29 but the issue you brought up is of concern of safety,
30 et cetera, following the agreements on distance and all
31 that.

32

33 So I will share, via Eva and that, who
34 the person is that could be part of this workshop going
35 forward on it because, yes, is what I hear, she's a
36 good friend of mine, what I hear from her is, yeah,
37 it's complex up there on land ownership, where the
38 Refuge is, where the Native Corporation lands are and
39 on top of that you have a safety issue, we're not going
40 to ignore that, but you have a very high interest from
41 people around the world. I mean they do come through
42 the Coldfoot Visitor Center, they spend the night
43 there, some of them, and then they fly up to Kaktovik
44 to see polar bears. So, yes, it's.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Some of the issues
47 that were coming across is not having a valid North
48 Slope Borough permit and when you use your residence as
49 a base of operations, turn your house into an office,

50

1 and commercialize your property, there is a neighbor
2 notice procedure that needs to go out through the
3 Borough to make sure the -- you're not impacting your
4 neighbors to agree that they object to the activities
5 and then find ways to mitigate the concerns.

6
7 So those kinds of things that we want
8 to make sure the community is aware of and the best
9 approach instead of just going out there and handing a
10 whole bunch of violation notices. We want to try to
11 work with the community, maybe do a workshop and have
12 that type of approach.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I'll get that information
15 to you and, yeah, it's a very complex situation there
16 and I think everyone agrees is safety is number 1, both
17 for the polar bear and for the visitors. It's just
18 working out all these other things and then a common
19 understanding of why there needs to be permits and, et
20 cetera, and we'll see where it ends up. But I will
21 share that through Eva and then you'll have that, and
22 hopefully she will -- it's Jennifer Reed (ph) will get
23 back to you as well as others.

24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We also presented
26 some concerns around the changes of the Dalton Highway
27 and others that are using them to access boats into the
28 North Slope region. We're very concerned because
29 there's a number of them that are using the fan boats
30 and that impact is very concerning, especially around
31 caribou migration. When Archie (Indiscernible)
32 commented at the meeting, it was because he was driving
33 back from medical appointments but he mentioned that he
34 had seen quite a few people going out with different
35 modes of transportation, whether it was off road
36 vehicles, but also with the fan boats. And then we've
37 had other hunters that have also expressed concerns
38 because we do have the ability to go through the Dalton
39 and access areas that we couldn't access as easily by
40 snowmachine and some of those conflicts that are
41 occurring.

42
43 We're very concerned because of the
44 improvements along the Dalton Highway that allowed that
45 scenic byways designation that allows camping with
46 campers that are occurring up there as well as the boat
47 launches. The Borough was really specific in trying to
48 prevent some of that access. But once we had that
49 scenic byways designation it just opened up a whole
50

1 round of activity that wasn't normal to the area and is
2 very concerning. We've talked about it, we've shared
3 concerns with Anaktuvuk and we've shared concerns with
4 Kaktovik but this is an opportunity to try to see what
5 we can do to look at what is it doing to that Refuge
6 with these increased activities because there is some
7 deflections that's occurring with those boats and
8 different concentrated efforts of land uses with the
9 group events of floaters that are going through, with
10 the various hunters that are going through. And all of
11 these layers of impacts.

12
13 Because it's not just the caribou
14 hunters. It's the moose hunters, it's the wolf
15 hunters, it's the sheep hunters. It's, you know, a
16 whole gamut. And if we limit some of this data
17 collection around one species, we're not addressing the
18 full concern. So doing what we can, this is some key
19 times. We know that there's going to be some other
20 things that are going to happen, but making sure that
21 we take some of those communications.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: The only response I can
24 give to you on that is that, and again you already have
25 a hefty annual report, but it may be something in your
26 annual report, because you're touching upon multiple
27 ways of accessing areas, you're talking about conflicts
28 on different levels, that you would want possibly a
29 comprehensive look at that. I know it's on the radar
30 screens of others. And when it's used -- for the
31 record, fan boats, you're talking about airboats,
32 correct?

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Yeah.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Yes. There's
37 different concerns that have been expressed to me
38 personally and I believe the agencies on airboat use in
39 certain areas. So it might be something to consider
40 either in your annual report that there be some looking
41 at this. The Dalton Highway Corridor cuts across north
42 to south, and, yes, it's becoming more popular, because
43 of various reasons. That's the first time I've heard
44 because of the scenic highway. But the point of it is,
45 it is there. And you have resources that you have
46 resources that you depend on that possibly are -- well,
47 their impacted already, but is it going to be greater,
48 lesser, whatever. What is happening to address that
49 possibility. I don't want you to revisit Proposal 57,
50

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1 but that's kind of the gist of that proposal.

2

3 So anyway that's just -- I don't want
4 to add more to your annual report, but I think since
5 it's multi-agencies that are involved with the corridor
6 as well as the Borough as well as others, it might be
7 good to have a consolidation on looking into that.
8 That would include law enforcement.

9

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, definitely.
11 These are all layers of things that are impacting our
12 assessment of the health and wellness of our
13 subsistence activities throughout this region.

14

15 Gordon, I do recommend that we look at
16 adding to our annual report, any ways that we can try
17 to get some of this assessment included into what's
18 being reported as we're looking at some of the
19 causation and reaction to some of the concerns we're
20 presenting on various management processes for these
21 species.

22

23 But thank you very much. This is very
24 informative. I really appreciate the comments Lee gave
25 in this process and working with Anaktuvuk in this
26 process, because these have been village concerns, but
27 it's not just village concerns, it's regional concerns.
28 And increasing the discussion and acceptance of these.

29

30 We've commented for decades along some
31 of these concerns, but when it was coming from just one
32 village, that was one discussion. But now we've got
33 multiple villages with similar concerns and complexity
34 of the response, and different protections that we
35 tried to put in.

36

37 So thank you very much.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

40

41 Any additional questions for Vince from
42 the Council.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there anything
47 else you'd like to provide there, Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: No, I just appreciate

50

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1 your open discussion on topics. And, Gordon, I
2 appreciate when you summarize, you know, history on
3 some of these proposals, because there is a lot on
4 these, and you guys only meet twice a year. And so I
5 appreciate that. And I know Staff is willing to help
6 with that, but it helps us, too, when you go through
7 those key questions, because sometimes we get on a
8 single track. So I applaud you on doing that.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
11 And thank you for the report on the Arctic National
12 Wildlife Refuge management stuff.
13

14 All right. Next agency report is -- we
15 did ADF&G. We moved that to old business earlier.
16 BLM, and we have Stacey Fritz, right?
17

18 MS. FRITZ: And I did provide a report
19 (indiscernible -- away from mic).
20

21 REPORTER: On the mic, please.
22

23 MS. FRITZ: Yes. Hello. Stacey Fritz,
24 BLM, Arctic District Office out of Fairbanks.
25

26 Thank you so much, Council. It's
27 really an honor to be here. Just a big reminder that
28 the Arctic District Office basically manages the
29 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, NPR-A, since
30 1976, the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act
31 transferred management of the NPR-A from the navy to
32 the Bureau of Land Management.
33

34 So I'll just briefly mention what I've
35 provided here is just an update on most of the major
36 permits that our office is evaluating this season.
37 What I normally do at least once a year is provide a
38 spreadsheet, a large spreadsheet with every single
39 permit that we give out in the year with just a who,
40 what, when, where, why, how, fuel, field camps. So
41 that I will be producing -- I usually try to do that in
42 the early summer and get that out. So this is a
43 midwinter report.
44

45 So I'll just mention the projects, and
46 then if anybody has any questions about any of them.
47 Some of these I'm sure you know more about than I do.
48

49 We have the draft supplemental
50

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1 environmental impact statement for Greater Moose's
2 Tooth II development project. We expect that draft to
3 be released soon. Don't know exact schedule is
4 available, but it's being renewed.

5
6 We at quite high levels are discussing
7 the leasing plan for the coastal plain 10-02 area, the
8 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, because as you
9 probably know, the Tax Act specified that the coastal
10 plain would be managed for oil and gas using NPR-A
11 regulations. So that's why. It's a land managed by
12 the Fish and Wildlife, but BLM is involved because of
13 the NPR-A regulations that are to be used.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just a quick
16 question on that there, Stacey.

17
18 MS. FRITZ: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Managed through NPR-A
21 regulation, right, and does that mean that BLM will be
22 conducting the lease sales on the behalf of Fish and
23 Wildlife Service or how is that going to work?

24
25 MS. FRITZ: I really don't know and I'm
26 not sure if that -- I think that's all being.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ironed out.

29
30 MS. FRITZ: Ironed out. Uh-huh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. It's all
33 so new to us, but we've been -- I mean, I think folks
34 on the North Slope have worked on this matter for 40
35 years. And we didn't even know what would happen if it
36 got opened. Now it's -- well, anyway, we're waiting I
37 guess to see how that's going to work.

38
39 MS. FRITZ: Well, I do believe -- you
40 know, I think this is in here that we're working with
41 Fish and Wildlife, BLM is, to organize two area wide
42 lease sales within 10 years. The first lease sale will
43 be within four years of the date that the Tax Act was
44 enacted, and the second lease sale will be within seven
45 years of that date. And each sale will offer at least
46 400,000 acres, and will include those areas that have
47 the highest potential for petroleum development. So I
48 think everybody understands that what would happen
49 first is some seismic exploration. So that's kind of

50

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1 the first thing that the BLM -- our office has a lot of
2 experience with permitting, seismic exploration, is
3 assisting the Fish and Wildlife with understanding how
4 we do that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Stacey, just --
7 I don't want to be stuck on this for a long time or
8 anything, but you don't have to have a lease sale to do
9 the seismic; you can get going on that, right?

10
11 MS. FRITZ: I believe that's correct,
12 but anything really about that.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, just wanted
15 to.....

16
17 MS. FRITZ:yeah, above my pay
18 grade.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

21
22 MS. FRITZ: The Secretary of the
23 Interior also has indicated that he would like to have
24 a revision of the 2013 NPR-A integrated activity plan.
25 Many of you recall that's the -- and IAP EIS is the
26 management plan for the entire NPR-A that determines
27 which areas will be open for leasing and which areas
28 will be temporarily closed, or special areas, the
29 Teshekpuk Special Area like you were mentioning. So
30 that's in the works.

31
32 The Secretary also requested a lease
33 sale of all available tracts, and that was actually
34 held on December 7th, 2017.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Question.

37
38 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: On that one, an alarming
41 little interest in it. Considering, you know, the 2003
42 notice by USGS that -- can you hear me okay -- the 2003
43 USGS decision that NPR-A was a gas-prone rich area.
44 And then a lot of seismic activity over the course of
45 the next 10 years that resulted in Conoco making a
46 number of significant discoveries, as well as Kallis.
47 Then that quick lease sale opening the entire area.....

48
49 MS. FRITZ: Well, not -- yeah, all

50

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1 available lease tracks.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: All available area,
4 showing very little interest. You know, seven bids,
5 1.6 -- 1-6 million dollars in total sales. What
6 happened? Why was there such little industry interest
7 in that lease?

8

9 MS. FRITZ: That is really a question
10 for industry. I can only surmise that some of the
11 tracts that might be value -- have interest are not
12 available for leasing. Too remote.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Stacey, and
15 maybe to help Bob's train of thought, where the special
16 area corner that's been identified and subsequently
17 expanded a few years ago.....

18

19 MS. FRITZ: The Teshekpuk Special.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:were those part
22 of offerings for lease sale, or are those excluded,
23 because that northeast corner is right in the trail of
24 the Barrow Arch.

25

26 MS. FRITZ: Right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And where very high
29 probability of hydrocarbon resources are underlaying.
30 And if they were not available because of the special
31 action protective area, that northeast corner. That
32 would only lead me to think that the industry has over
33 the course of time looked through seismic data on the
34 southern portion and has some -- I think the more high
35 probability areas may have been off limits.

36

37 MS. FRITZ: And it's really my fault to
38 not have brought the 2013 IAP map so that I could say
39 specifically which areas in the special area are --
40 some of them are available for leasing, but there's no
41 permanent infrastructure allowed.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, you can look,
44 but you can't do anything.

45

46 MS. FRITZ: Well, I think -- I guess
47 the assumption is that directional drilling would allow
48 resources to be targeted.

49

50

1 MR SHEARS: So I was kind of hoping
2 your answer might lead me to forming a conclusion for
3 my second question to you. Is there consideration
4 within the Administration or BLM as far as
5 investigating the opportunity for making portions of
6 NPR-A into wildlife refuge status, bringing it in --
7 listing it for wildlife refuge status consideration?
8

9 MS. FRITZ: That is certainly a
10 question that's above my pay grade, but I will say that
11 I have never heard of any such proposal. No, it seems
12 unlikely.
13

14 So moving on, we have the Willow
15 prospect master development plan. BLM intends to
16 initiate a master development plan environmental impact
17 statement that will be similar in scope to the Alpine
18 Satellite development plan from 2004. That will
19 evaluate development of the Willow oil prospect. BLM's
20 in the preliminary stages of coordinating with Conoco
21 Phillips, and is working to identify the list of
22 cooperating agencies. And BLM will reach out to
23 potential cooperating agencies with a formal invitation
24 once a project proposal is submitted from the
25 applicant.
26

27 And I do mention here that we have the
28 streamlining NEPA Act. We don't know if that would
29 apply, but if so, that means that the environmental
30 impact statement would be completed within 12 months
31 and the document would be fewer than 300 pages.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's
34 encouraging. Less than 300 pages.
35

36 MS. FRITZ: Apparently it doesn't
37 include appendices though.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, you know, when
40 we get an application like that, an often we get a
41 rezone request in excess of 1500 pages, and we
42 automatically stamp it as incomplete. Well, we'll tell
43 you when we finish reading it exhaustively.
44

45 MS. FRITZ: Another authorization we've
46 given is for Conoco Phillips to do geotechnical
47 exploration, so basically bore hole drilling at the
48 GMT-2 drill site. That was just a few bore holes.
49 It's not to be confused with the permit. I know North
50

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1 Slope Borough has given a permit to Conoco for their
2 kind of larger bore hole drilling looking for gravel,
3 which we will also be evaluating. This is a separate
4 permit just for a smaller action at the GMT-2 site.
5

6 We have the Conoco Bear 3D seismic
7 survey. There's a map on Page 6 showing the area of
8 that survey. And there's just a sliver of that seismic
9 survey that's actually within the boundary of the
10 National Petroleum Reserve. It's south of Nuiqsut.
11

12 Conoco winter exploration in the NPR-A.
13 Conoco's identified six potential locations for its
14 winter exploration program. Three of the proposed
15 drill sites are located in the Greater Moose's Tooth
16 Unit in the NPR-A, and one is within the Bear Tooth
17 Unit. Two are located in non-unit areas. The proposed
18 drilling lies entirely within the NPR-A and within the
19 boundaries of the North Slope Borough. They also may
20 plugged and abandon one or more existing exploration
21 wells.
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.
24 You said plug or abandon.....
25

26 MS. FRITZ: Plug and abandon.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER:existing
29 exploration wells. Is that in NPR-A?
30

31 MS. FRITZ: Uh-huh. And that's -- I'm
32 not sure if you're -- it has nothing to do with like
33 the legacy wells clean up project. This is just more
34 recent wells that Conoco has drilled, exploratory
35 wells, and then they determined that they don't want
36 those wells any more. Then they -- if they have time
37 and availability this winter, they will go plug and
38 abandon those wells.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Here's
41 something that you -- you know, BLM and the Borough and
42 probably Conoco Phillips need to think about, and maybe
43 some other operators. Under the Gas Transfer Act of
44 1984, the ability to -- and I'm not talking about the
45 legacy wells. These are new wells, and that maybe have
46 been deemed undesirable because they're not producing
47 hydrocarbons, but maybe something else they're looking
48 for, or sub-commercial, and that it's not -- the
49 Borough through the act of Congress has given that
50

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1 ability to the North Slope Borough to work with that
2 operator and BLM, and say, hey, we're going to take
3 that well and evaluate it for use by the community to
4 reduce the cost of living by hijacking all of that
5 natural gas. And we need to be doing more one-on-one
6 under those terms with the North Slope Borough to --
7 right now, the way that Nuiqsut gets it gas is through
8 the agreement over there at Alpine, which the Borough
9 is spending considerable amount of funds to scrub H2S
10 poisonous gas that accumulates with waterflood for
11 enhanced oil recovery. So spend over a million dollars
12 trying to condition that gas so it's usable for the
13 community, and scrub the H2S gas out of it. And if we
14 were independent and had the capability of developing
15 the well that somebody else drilled, and handed over
16 the liability to the Borough and then we develop that
17 for the community, it seems to me that would be a
18 better, ideal way of doing that instead of getting it
19 from the oilfield where they use the gas for enhanced
20 oil recovery and maintain pressure plus it also gets
21 contaminated by seawater, enhanced oil recovery methods
22 by where it produces H2S gas, which is undesirable kind
23 of stuff.

24
25 MS. FRITZ: Right.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, just thought
28 I'd mention that.

29
30 MS. FRITZ: Interesting. That's
31 certainly -- if a petroleum engineer was here, he'd
32 probably weigh in. And I know that there's been some
33 talk of.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know you're the
36 subsist.....

37
38 MS. FRITZ:providing natural gas
39 for Kaktovik if development occurs in the 10-02.
40 That's all I know.

41
42 Let's see, the next permit I wanted to
43 mention. So Olgoonik Construction Services is doing
44 the remediation of the Wolf Creek legacy wells. It's
45 basically just west of Umiat, so they're building a
46 snow trail down from the 2-P pad. There are four
47 legacy wells down there. Wolf Creek 1, 2, 3, and
48 Tatalik 1 -- oh, sorry, 5, and Square Lake 1. So they
49 went in last summer and cleaned up a bunch of the
50

1 surface, and then they're going in this winter to do
2 basically plug and abandonment of those old legacy
3 wells.
4

5 And here's one that's complicated, and
6 I really don't know that much about, but the UIC gravel
7 mining plan. UIC's proposal to develop a gravel mine
8 just south of Utqiagvik here, south of the airport.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that the map right
11 here?
12

13 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, there's a little map
14 there. Uh-huh. Project location there is right smack
15 dab in the middle.
16

17 And then we have the North Slope
18 Borough community winter access trails right-of-way.
19 So that will be a five-year right-of-way for the snow
20 trails with the caravans for residential vehicles. And
21 I did just hear that the State of Alaska most likely
22 will not be opening tundra travel in the foothills this
23 year, and so that BLM will not be processing the permit
24 for the AKP route. And I'm really sorry that's the
25 case, because I think AKP would really benefit for that
26 snow road. BLM is still consulting with Anaktuvuk
27 Pass. I believe our archaeologist -- so it's both
28 actually the Arctic office and the Central Yukon
29 office, our archaeologist consulted with the tribe
30 yesterday, and now they have plenty of time to work out
31 all the questions, because it probably won't happen
32 until next year.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Stacey, I know I
35 think you're not the right person.....
36

37 MS. FRITZ: Oh, my gosh,
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to talk with on
40 that. And we have Staff that are working on this, and,
41 you know, we are bummed that the Foothills -- the
42 weather is not cooperating up in the foothills to
43 warrant a tundra opening. And we are at the Borough
44 reassessing and looking at how we do that in the
45 future. There are other machinery that are all season
46 that are tundra capable that can be used in the summer.
47 If we were to use and contract that have summer-
48 approved vehicles, and we're thinking about that, to
49 overcome the issues about tundra opening. And I think
50

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1 we're also wanting to work with BLM and DNR and the
2 North Slope Borough I think is -- our direction is to
3 install our own thermasters along those routes.....
4

5 MS. FRITZ: That would be great
6 actually, yeah.
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:so that we can
9 make our own determination and not be just stuck with
10 DNR's determination, because the Borough is well
11 capable of determining tundra conditions, and we've
12 done that in the past. And we've worked with BLM in
13 the best to open NPR-A with our own inspector groups.
14

15 MS. FRITZ: Oh, yes. Okay.
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that was
18 acceptable by BLM. And, in fact, I think it was 1998
19 or 1999 that we had been requested by a seismic
20 operator, because they had equipment stuck at Anigong
21 (ph), and say, could the Borough make a determination,
22 because BLM wasn't getting people on the ground, so the
23 Borough did provide boots on the ground make a
24 determination, provide an analysis, and justified the
25 means, and then opened tundra channel for those groups.
26 So there's a collaborative need to be doing some of
27 these stuff together.
28

29 MS. FRITZ: That seems reasonable. I
30 know that BLM doesn't make the determination on the
31 tundra opening. We just use the State's determination.
32 So do we know that the State has determined they're not
33 opening the foothills, or just don't think it's likely?
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's just not
36 likely, but tundra condition's going to vary based on
37 the temperature and the coverage of the snow. But just
38 be mindful, too, that the Borough can make those
39 determinations as well. The Borough is a home rule
40 Borough, and the charter to effectuate opening and
41 closing of tundra. Just thought I'd dole that out.
42

43 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. Well, I'm sure that
44 we'd be willing to work with the Borough. I think it's
45 really a community benefit.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, I think
48 that's what we're going to do with the troubles we're
49 having is the Borough has selected lands on the way en
50

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1 route to Anaktuvuk from the Haul Road, that we might
2 use those selected lands as locations to put
3 thermasters in those.

4
5 MS. FRITZ: Well, I'm sure you could
6 put thermasters on the other lands,

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah. Yeah.
9 But, you know, if it were on lands that the Borough had
10 selected -- we don't have them conveyed to the Borough
11 yet, but our interest is that as well, because the
12 route that we've selected to go into AKP would have in
13 its path the selected lands that the Borough would
14 own.....

15
16 MS. FRITZ: Right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER:as a means of
19 protection for the community to put in security shacks
20 or something like that. But it looks like, like you
21 said, the upper foothills, that area, is not going to
22 open or not likely to open for tundra travel based on
23 the temperature. And I stand to be corrected if
24 anybody's on line that wants to correct me.

25
26 MS. FRITZ: The other permit we are
27 processing, it's associated with the Aztec fiber optic
28 line between Utqiagvik and Atkasuk. It's a snowmachine
29 survey to plan out the exact route. I think it will
30 have like, what, a mile lag corridor, and they need to
31 figure out what the best route is, specific route is
32 within that corridor.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Stacey, again,
35 you know, we did have some concern at the Borough,
36 because in the comprehensive planning of communities'
37 adopted plans, there are real good indications
38 expressed by the community to connect to other
39 communities with all-season grave roads and get away
40 from dependency on just air service.

41
42 MS. FRITZ: Right.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And one of the
45 concerns that we would raise is that if we started
46 planning these and have a right-of-way. And I remember
47 as an intern for BLM back in 1997 or somewhere around
48 there, being an intern, one of my jobs was to study an
49 old right-of-way that was submitted by Eban Hopson, and

50

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1 I think it was 1980s vintage, just before he passed
2 away maybe. I'm not too sure.

3
4 MS. FRITZ: Was it a right-of-way for a
5 road or for the electric line?

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It was for -- I
8 believe it was for natural gas, to provide natural gas
9 to Atqasuk and to Wainwright. And it showed a
10 corridor, and we still would be concerned that even
11 utilities, natural gas, roads, be confined to one
12 corridor instead of multiple corridors. And that was
13 kind of what we conveyed to Aztec. Yeah. I think it's
14 Aztec that wants to run the ground fiber to Atqasuk at
15 this point from Barrow.

16
17 MS. FRITZ: Right. It's a very
18 interesting proposal. I'm personally very curious. I
19 think it's a great idea. They've never done this
20 before, laying the fiber optic cable, just laying it
21 across the ground. There's so many issues of burying
22 it, so many issues with stringing it on poles, so the
23 proposal is to simply lay it across the ground and
24 there would have to be some trenching around rivers to
25 go underneath the rivers. But other than that, it
26 would just get nestled into the tundra.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Well, we
29 -- you know, they're going to do that snowmachine
30 trail, too, but we'd be interested to be a participant
31 for the actual review for how BLM's approach is going
32 to be for laying that cable down.

33
34 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. We've had one
35 meeting with the Aztec people, talked a lot about how
36 we would make sure that, you know, I guess the issues
37 identified just in the original meeting were, you know,
38 somebody -- it would have to be somehow flagged so that
39 somebody on a snowmachine didn't catch it with one ski
40 or, you know.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Those did come
43 up with our dialogue with Aztec, what are you going to
44 do about these folks. They'll go to Wainwright,
45 they'll go to Atqasuk, to Barrow, and they're going to
46 have to snow machine over your fiber cable if you're
47 just going to lay it down. What are you going to do if
48 a ski gets caught in it.

49
50

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1 MS. FRITZ: Right. So that's the idea
2 of making sure that all along the route that it's
3 tucked in, like at least covered with snow, and then
4 nestled into the tundra. Not really buried, but.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very
7 good. That's the same concerns we had.

8
9 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
12 a lot of concern for Nuiqsut. Every one of these
13 projects are risking our subsistence lifestyle. We're
14 completely getting surrounded with these proposals, and
15 these are areas that we were currently hunting in. We
16 didn't get some of the communications on how we could
17 have prevented some of the impacts, especially from the
18 development that went out to Greater Moose Tooth, and
19 the concerns about the migration from that west side
20 towards the village. But, you know, whatever we can do
21 to try to get some of those communications to try to
22 prevent the deflection of the herd, and to try to
23 prevent the impacts to our subsistence harvest are
24 really important.

25
26 This turns my stomach. My stomach is
27 just burning worrying about how is Nuiqsut going to
28 subsist, how are we going to be harvesting? We've
29 already had so much conflict of trying to be who and
30 what we are in our lands and waters, and now we're
31 completely surrounded with these projects.

32
33 Our village is suffering in so many
34 ways, and we've been engaged to try to prevent this,
35 but yet, you know, we have tons of impacts are going to
36 come from one project, let alone the cumulative affect
37 of just this report, let alone the already approved
38 projects that have been already leased, and are in
39 their current permitting processes that are before us.
40 You know, there's so many things. I can't say we're
41 adequately addressing the concerns to maintain
42 subsistence for Nuiqsut. We're showing that it doesn't
43 matter what we say or do, Nuiqsut just better plan on
44 going to the store and try to harvest from the store
45 and not harvest from the community.

46
47 I know our hunters are going to keep
48 trying to harvest. I mean, my son traveled 300 miles.
49 I had two sons travel from Barrow to Nuiqsut in the

50

1 last couple years trying to hope that they're going to
2 harvest in the changes that are going on. Part of it
3 was coming to areas that they were used to hunting in,
4 but it was also because of difficulties of harvesting
5 around Barrow and their efforts to share with their
6 extended family members that are here.

7
8 And these are really complex issues,
9 but I'm just hurting tremendously with this report,
10 knowing that I'm at this table to try to protect
11 Nuiqsut's subsistence, and I don't see how I'm going to
12 be able to do that with you presentation. I really
13 don't know how any of our efforts to communicate at
14 this table is going to give my village the hopes to be
15 able to subsist.

16
17 These are real serious, and yet you are
18 putting your hat as the North Slope Borough into this
19 discussion. You're not wearing that hat right now.
20 You're the Chairman of this RAC, and yet all of your
21 discussion is coming from your Borough's hat. And yet
22 we have really worked hard to try to prevent this, and
23 yet it's already a given, you know, even these
24 intervillage travels. You already are deciding that
25 they're happening, and yet, you know, some of the
26 protective mechanisms that we put in place to try to
27 hope that we'll have hopes to subsist, how are we going
28 to do this, Gordon? How is Nuiqsut going to do this?
29 Should I put my resignation in right now, because I
30 can't protect my village. You know, right now I'm
31 saying this report, okay, give up. What reassurance
32 that my seat here is going to mean anything in the
33 decisions that are coming up, because I'm one person
34 and I'm already against the Chair in this discussion.
35 And you're not providing communications as the Chair.
36 You're the providing the communications as the Borough
37 in this. I have to really push back on you, Gordon.
38 You know, I know you have a hat with the Borough, and
39 it's a very important hat, but you're the Chair of this
40 RAC, and that's really important.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I'm calling a
43 point of order here, and, yeah, I think it is the
44 responsibility of the Chair to provide as much
45 information to these folks, and this also is a report
46 from BLM. The way in which protecting subsistence that
47 these permitters from BLM, for the Borough, is hearing
48 concerns from residents, and providing the meaningful
49 policies to address those concerns. I think this is a

50

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1 report from them to us of what they are doing, and I
2 don't think it's from here that effectuating permitting
3 process in an agency. They're just reporting to us at
4 this point.

5
6 And I do speak from my heart as a
7 subsistence representative here, but I also provide
8 meaningful insight of other responsibilities that these
9 groups should adhere to as well, and not just their own
10 processes, and that's where you hear me chime in as
11 responsible citizen. And I do wear other hats, and I
12 do like to convey to those that need to know that it is
13 not only their processes. There's also home rule
14 Boroughs and tribes and other that are impacted in
15 these processes.

16
17 So with that, I'm going ahead and yield
18 to BLM.

19
20 MS. FRITZ: The other permit I think
21 everybody's familiar with, this project, this Iris
22 right-of-way for the earthquake monitoring systems.
23 It's that really interesting project where they have
24 the little basically seismometers that they place
25 around with the solar panels. So this one was just to
26 renew their right-of-way for the one here at Utqiagvik.
27 And we've previously permitted Iris to install seismic
28 stations across the NPR-A. It's happened all across
29 the country.

30
31 We provided the right-of-way for fuel
32 transportation between Barrow -- Utqiagvik, excuse me,
33 and Atqasuk. That was also Olgoonik Oilfield Services,
34 secured that right-of-way for tundra travel. And the
35 project is being funded by the North Slope Borough, and
36 Olgoonik has been subcontracted by Eskimos, Inc. to
37 transport fuel between Utqiagvik and Atqasuk.

38
39 Other upcoming projects that we have on
40 the horizon, we've not started the permitting, but
41 Elson Lagoon monitoring. That's part of a recently
42 funded National Science Foundation long-term ecological
43 research grant. So we will definitely be working with
44 residents here to talk about that. It doesn't sound
45 like it's going to be really impact, but they would
46 visit sites in the lagoon to sample for water,
47 sediment, and chemistry.

48
49 We'll be processing a right-of-way to
50

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1 haul materials overland between Utqiagvik and Atqasuk
2 for the FAA upgrade of the airstrip and apron.

3
4 And then as I mentioned, that larger
5 Conoco Phillips geotechnical exploration to locate new
6 gravel sources in the northeast NPR-A.

7
8 MR. SHEARS: A question, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

11
12 MR. SHEARS: Have you been engaged by
13 the State of Alaska A-Star program on doing desktop or
14 non-field studies relating to route reconnaissance for
15 inter-community transportation routes?

16
17 MS. FRITZ: Not at our level. At least
18 not in our office. I know that actually I think
19 yesterday there was a meeting, a teleconference meeting
20 on the A-Star project. And I think that's the first
21 official communication we've had with the State on the
22 A-Star project.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Bob, Mr.
25 Shears, and to Stacey. That's community access trail?

26
27 MS. FRITZ: The winter snow trails, the
28 community -- yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Those are a proof of
31 concept at the wish of communities to be connected, to
32 see what the economic differences are going to develop
33 as community access trails are open, and see what the
34 commerce changes. And those are -- so if you're
35 dealing -- if BLM is dealing with the community access
36 trails, those are a by-product of A-Star.

37
38 MS. FRITZ: Right. That's my
39 understanding. It's like kind of a proof of concept
40 feasibility to see how it works out. So I have
41 collected a bunch of A-Star information to provide to
42 the -- you know, to make sure that everybody who's
43 reviewing the permit, the application, that BLM is
44 aware. And then I wasn't in the office, but they did
45 have a meeting on the A-Star yesterday.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: Another question is, how
48 is BLM's report card with our communities in regards to
49 aircraft operations this year?

50

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1 MS. FRITZ: You mean, how did the
2 communities feel about BLM activities? Well, usually
3 the complaints come through North Slope Borough
4 planning and get conveyed to us. We actually haven't
5 heard that many specific complaints, I think just a
6 general.....

7
8 MR. SHEARS: Good news. That's an
9 improvement.

10
11 MS. FRITZ: Well, I mean, I think that
12 it's just the kind of baseline. So, you know -- and I
13 get so many questions about it that I just want to
14 point out, I should have provided the link in here that
15 I compiled basically all of our regulations, all the
16 letters, all the activities that we do, all our
17 understanding of the aviation conflict issue, and I
18 have it on the BLM Subsistence Advisory Panel website,
19 So it's kind of like -- in response to that ICAS (ph)
20 resolution, we sort of compiled everything with lessons
21 that we've learned and why it's such a hard issue, why
22 it's really difficult for BLM to fix it. What we can
23 do. You know, BLM, we have to give permits to people
24 when they fly and land on BLM lands. Any other
25 aircraft activity, we have nothing and no authority --
26 we have no authority over that. And it's really
27 difficult to regulate the airspace. So, you know, in
28 that I provided links to the FAA for people to -- if
29 they wish to do things like that. It's an extremely
30 complex issue as you know. I think there's and NNSSI
31 working group that's getting back in action on it,
32 people looking at use of drones to replace helicopters.
33 A lot of interesting information on why helicopters are
34 so annoying to people everywhere, not just, you know,
35 on the North Slope when they're hunting, but New York
36 City.

37
38 Yeah, I wouldn't say there have not
39 been any complaints. I don't remember any specific
40 incidents from this past summer.

41
42 MR. SHEARS: Not this past summer.

43
44 MS. FRITZ: Right.

45
46 MR. SHEARS: The summer before that.

47
48 REPORTER: Mic, please.

49
50

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1 MR. SHEARS: Oh, just thinking, you
2 know, recalling every summer it seemed like there would
3 be a community complaint. Atgasuk, Wainwright. 2015,
4 2016. But 2017 sounds like a good year. And perhaps
5 BLM pilots who typically respond that we work for BLM
6 and the Federal government, we don't have to adhere by
7 any flight restrictions except for FAA, and they would
8 fly 300 feet of the deck, had no concept of vertical
9 take off or maintaining a 1500-foot ceiling. Now they
10 seem to be getting the message then it sounds like.

11
12 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. Well, we do work
13 pretty hard to consult with communities. We had a
14 project out at Wainwright last summer. We had people
15 on the ground changing the routes daily based on where
16 people were going hunting, had paid liaisons in the
17 community. And, you know, that was to manage one
18 helicopter.

19
20 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Good.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And just for
23 your information, Bob, we do probably collect -- the
24 majority of complaints go to the North Slope Borough.

25
26 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we do follow up
29 and try to work with BLM on whose aircrafts these are,
30 and provide tail numbers and things like that. About
31 90 percent of them get resolved.

32
33 MS. FRITZ: We don't hear about the
34 resolutions. We just hear about the complaints.

35
36 If there are no other questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Stacey.

41
42 MS. FRITZ: Thank you, I appreciate it.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you for
45 bearing with us,

46
47 MS. FRITZ: My pleasure.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have maybe --

50

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1 refer to Madam Coordinator, the agency reports. Have
2 we gone through the gamut of all the agency reports?

3
4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5 Yes. So yesterday we were juggling around a little bit
6 while you and Bob were at the directors meeting. And
7 Marcy Okada did provide an update for Gates of the
8 Arctic National Park and Preserve yesterday.

9
10 And again the Arctic Landscape
11 Conservation Cooperative will not be reporting to the
12 Council.

13
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field
15 office, Ernest Yunak (ph) had an open invitation. They
16 provided a report to the Council at the last meeting.
17 And so they're not here at this meeting today.

18
19 And that brings us down to the OSM
20 report.

21
22 And again I do want to note to the
23 Council that we put in a request to the solicitor for
24 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and he was
25 able to respond by email to the Council's questions and
26 concerns. Robbin has that email on her computer now if
27 the Council wanted to hear that rely at this time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Robbin, so
30 you'll be doing the OSM report that includes the
31 dialogue about the charter change.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Correct, Mr. Chair.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You have
38 the floor.

39
40 MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
41 members of the Council. My name is Robbin LaVine, and
42 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. I've been on Staff now for about three and
44 a half years; however, I've been working on subsistence
45 issues in Alaska for the last 16 years or so. I've
46 worked for the Bristol Bay Native Association for a
47 number of years, lived in Dillingham. And I worked for
48 the Division of Subsistence at the Alaska Department of
49 Fish and Game. And now I'm here with OSM. And again
50

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1 as I said earlier, this is my first time here in
2 Barrow, and I'm so thrilled to be here.

3
4 Thank you very much.

5
6 So I am here actually in my capacity as
7 an acting Anthropology Division supervisor. And so I'm
8 here as a member of the LT.

9
10 So our quick update before we get to
11 the solicitor's email in response to your concerns
12 regarding your charter, is just in regards to hiring.
13 So you may have been aware that there was a hiring
14 freeze, and although the hiring freeze is no longer in
15 effect, any position GS-12 and above requires a waiver
16 and an approval from the directorate. So those
17 positions and requests to fill those positions get sent
18 to D.C. And those positions, GS-11 and below require a
19 waiver and approval from the regional director.

20
21 So we have seven vacancies at our
22 office right now. We are proceeding with waivers for
23 four positions. A staff and supervisor position each
24 for Fisheries Division and for the Anthropology
25 Division.

26
27 And I just wanted to let you know that
28 should both those anthropology positions get filled,
29 then we will be fully staffed for the first time in a
30 very long time as far as anthropology is concerned.

31
32 And I wanted to thank you, because I
33 know this Council has been a tremendous advocate for
34 the Anthropology Division at OSM. And we haven't
35 forgotten that. Of course, the letter that you wrote
36 to our Region 7 director in 2013, that was written
37 before I came on, but I'm certainly aware of the
38 efforts you made, and I think you so very much.

39
40 Beyond that, yesterday we were made
41 aware of some changes to your charter. And while a
42 solicitor was not able to call in, he did invite me to
43 share his email with you on the record. And this is
44 what he says.

45
46 Because that language is important with
47 respect to how a few FACA advisory committees conduct
48 business in other parts of the nation, the Secretary's
49 Office decided to insert it into every single FACA

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1 charter across the country regardless of whether it was
2 relevant or not.

3
4 Please reassure the Council that Carl
5 and I both reviewed that language last year and both
6 concluded that it is simply not relevant to the
7 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils missions. It
8 has no impact on how they conduct business and changes
9 nothing. Because it is not relevant, Carl sent a
10 request to the Secretary's Office to have it removed
11 from this program's charters. However, his request was
12 denied.

13
14 So the bad news is that we are stuck
15 with that language. We have been told in no uncertain
16 terms that it is not going to be removed or changed.

17
18 However, but the good news is that it
19 is meaningless with regard to the Federal Subsistence
20 Program. My suggestion is, he says, not I, that the
21 Council not waste another minute of time worrying about
22 it.

23
24 And thank you very much.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Any questions
27 about the email from -- who was it from? A solicitor?

28
29 MS. LAVINE: Our solicitor, Ken Lord,
30 yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Well,
33 even if there's nothing to do about nothing with that,
34 but the language to me is -- anyway, I'm going to be
35 looking at that language in my own world.

36
37 Any other questions for Robbin, right?

38
39 MS. LAVINE: Correct.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robbin.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No further questions
46 for OSM.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the OSM
2 reports.

3
4 All right. If that's the last item on
5 agency reports, and I'm led to believe we can go down
6 to item 13, future meeting dates.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
9 You'll find the fall 2018 Regional Advisory Council
10 meeting calendar on Page 47. And this is the calendar
11 of all the dates that each Council has selected to meet
12 for the fall of 2018, and also where they would like to
13 meet.

14
15 Robbin didn't mention much in the
16 report on the budget updates; however, there is
17 anticipated budget cuts to the program, and currently
18 operating under a travel cap. So unfortunately that
19 puts an imposition on the Council's ability to be able
20 to meet freely in the region. And we've been operating
21 under, you know, fairly stringent budget and have to
22 make very strong advocacy for the Council to be able to
23 meet outside the region and do -- or outside of Barrow
24 rather, and also a cost analysis and justification.

25
26 The Council had requested to meet in
27 Point Hope in the interest in connecting with the
28 community in Point Hope, and that community's interest
29 in the Council meeting there. And what I was told by
30 our director is that it's unlikely given the budget
31 cap. So we're relegated to meeting in the regional
32 hubs, which would be Barrow. I will still submit that
33 request for the Council, and that cost analysis. We
34 can see the cost difference. But again most likely the
35 Council would be having to meet in Barrow due to travel
36 costs.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You have
39 it, Council, that maybe there's some funding issues
40 going on, and that might be cost-prohibitive currently
41 to go for our fall meeting to be in Point Hope. And I
42 do know we've been wanting to get Council membership
43 out of Wainwright for the longest time. If we were to
44 choose a village, I would think Wainwright would be an
45 important target as well. But we had slated August 21,
46 22. And so what's the wish of the Council. Anyone
47 change that to Barrow because of the constraints the
48 Department is under. So I'll leave it up to the
49 Council to make some recommendations on when and where.

50

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1 I know we've made it a point to try to
2 meet in villages. I think we've met in Anaktuvuk 2014,
3 and there was another village that we visited. I think
4 it was Nuiqsut.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Nuiqsut, yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We went to Nuiqsut.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Yes, it's been of great
11 interest to the Council. Prior to Nuiqsut was in fall
12 of 2013, and that meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass was fall of
13 2015. And that was at the request of the Council. The
14 concerns that each of those communities was facing and
15 particular subsistence issues that were coming up. We
16 did get approval for those meetings. It's very much
17 the wish of the Council to be able to continue to meet
18 in other villages around the region and serve those
19 communities to make those connections directly in the
20 community, in particular Wainwright since we don't have
21 a representative residing in Wainwright at this time.
22 Point Lay is another community that we're missing a
23 resident of Point Lay.

24
25 What I can say is that I will submit
26 the Council's request and the reasoning and the
27 justification and the need in terms of making those
28 connections to maintain that representation across the
29 region, and will do the cost analysis. I just want to
30 let the Council know it's likely that we might have to
31 meet in Barrow still.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And I think
34 it's important, you know, when you do your
35 justification as well that I think when we meet out in
36 the villages and they know that we're talking about
37 their resources that they depend on, I think something
38 happens to the participation level and willingness to
39 engage. Anyway, that's just my -- you know, more
40 comprehension about, you know, where does all these
41 regulations come from and things like that.

42
43 With that, what's the wish of the
44 Council. Shall we keep North Slope in Point Hope and
45 let her make that justification, and if they can't do
46 that, the fall-back is Barrow. That was a request that
47 we made in the fall was to take this to Point Hope.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
2 the floor to time and place for next meeting August 21,
3 22, to be in Point Hope.

4
5 MR. SHEARS: Need a second. Yeah.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by
8 Anaktuvuk Pass. Any discussion.

9
10 (No comment)

11
12 MR SHEARS: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
15 called for. All those in favor of scheduling our next
16 meeting to be on August 21 and 22 in the village of
17 Point Hope signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 (Inaudible -- technical difficulties)

22
23 MR. KAYOTUK: It's beginning of 2018,
24 you know, things are just getting started and things
25 are going to be shifted around quite a bit in the past
26 coming year. I think I see it and I'll be thinking.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Lee.
29 And I extend the closing comments to Rosemary.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I want to recognize
32 that I've taken a chair in the audience to provide
33 these closing comments.

34
35 We were at a point of discussion to a
36 report that was being presented by an agency, and I
37 asked our Chair for help for our village, but your
38 response was to call point of order. Robert's Rules
39 around that question whether or not that was an
40 appropriate call, because we were not in a motion
41 process. We were open for discussion. But as the
42 Chair I brought out concerns that you were commenting
43 as a land manager and not as the Chair of this meeting.
44 And I have to present that. That is a very concerning
45 process, because you stopped the ability for us to try
46 to come up with solutions with that agency report that
47 was open for discussion.

48
49 When you are doing some of these

50

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1 things, I understand it's uncomfortable to be in your
2 role and have multiple hats that we bring to the table
3 for this discussion. But this is a representation
4 process for the Village of Nuiqsut, and you prevented
5 us from discussing possible solutions. It is very
6 concerning on whether or not we're going to be able to
7 have subsistence harvesting with that presentation.
8 And I was trying to ask for help. So I have to bring
9 that back to the discussion, because I couldn't give it
10 at that table, because you chose to call point of
11 order.

12
13 And I have to question that, because
14 we're trying to find solutions to these changes to give
15 Nuiqsut some hopes of subsistence. This is not an easy
16 process. I'm crying right now, trying to say these
17 words. And we were not given our village an
18 opportunity to talk with this body on possible
19 solutions. We can't turn back the clock. You made
20 that choice and we don't have the opportunity to bring
21 that.

22
23 But Nuiqsut is suffering tremendously
24 in our ability to provide for subsistence to our
25 community. And the presentation we just had from BLM
26 only intensifies those concerns.

27
28 So I come to the audience table to
29 provide these comments. I'm not trying to belittle the
30 many hats that you're wearing, Gordon. I'm just trying
31 to say that there are questions in the way that this
32 process is going. And we recognize that you have to
33 bring in some of these other discussions, but when you
34 take the premise and prevent us from effectively
35 participating, those are hardships not just for me as
36 an individual on this board, but for my village as a
37 whole. And I heartedly have to caution you in that.
38 Because we had the opportunity to look at some of this
39 presentation and try to come up with some avenues that
40 would give Nuiqsut some hopes that we're going to be
41 able to subsist. But instead of recognizing that you
42 have some conflicts when you wear both hats in that
43 chair, you stopped the discussion. I'm sorry, I'm not
44 trying to belittle who and what you are. You've got
45 generations of engagement in this process, Gordon, but
46 these are very important issues. And that's an impact
47 that I can't go back and correct in an effort to
48 request help from the other members in this process,
49 from other participants that here from various

50

1 agencies, and putting some discussion over projects
2 that are being proposed by BLM that's going to affect
3 Nuiqsut's subsistence.
4

5 It hurts tremendously to think about
6 how do I go back to the village in this failure,
7 because we suffered, and we have community members who
8 go to these meetings and they cry about their hardship.
9 I think about Nellie Napagiak Nukapagut (ph) who
10 provided comments about the sick caribou in our
11 previous meeting, and yet you had no hesitation to do
12 what you felt was appropriate, because of some
13 discomfort that was there.
14

15 But I have to question whether or not I
16 can participate, because it is obvious that we're not
17 going to be able to entertain discussions on our
18 village impacts and possible solutions. You proved
19 that today, Gordon. I have to recognize what does that
20 mean for this continued engagement. I have elders that
21 told me I had to get back on this Board, because I did
22 give it up, trying to limit some of the ways that we're
23 engaged. But they told me because this Board deals
24 with our village concerns and our Native allotments
25 that I had to come back here. Unfortunately those
26 elders are no longer here. And I carry that burden on
27 my shoulders when I come to this table. But when you
28 have to open the door in our village and deal with
29 these comments over and over and over, and this is the
30 subsistence process. Those are real serious concerns,
31 and I don't know how to come up with solutions, because
32 you barred that process. And I'm really sorry that
33 this is an issue for you, but you suffering Nuiqsut.
34 Our village membership in this process. It's not just
35 me that you're suffering. I have to try to communicate
36 about this. And yet you barred us from opening
37 discussions on possible solutions.
38

39 So I don't know how I'm supposed to
40 deal with this, I have to go back and I have to talk
41 with our elders and I have to come up with a way to try
42 to deal with this. It's not something I take lightly.
43 But you caused damage to our concerns and our ability
44 to come up with solutions, Gordon. It hasn't been the
45 first time. But I have to question that, and I have to
46 bring these discussions to all of us, because all of us
47 are facing these concerns in our region. But each one
48 of our villages are at risk for your efforts to protect
49 yourself in that process. It wasn't protecting our
50

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1 Regional Advisory Council in that process. And I'm
2 sorry, I put it straight out there.

3
4 I respect you tremendously, Gordon. If
5 you haven't been involved in all these years, we
6 wouldn't have some of these protections in place, but
7 we also have our village who is looking at these maps
8 that were included in those reports. And I don't have
9 any boxes near my village that are not leased. There
10 aren't very many boxes that are available for us to
11 continue our subsistence way of life with that report.
12 And I need some help. If I can't get it here with all
13 of us, then you tell me, where can I get the help to
14 give Nuiqsut the hope we're going to subsist and feed
15 our families into the future, because you told me,
16 point of order, we can't discuss it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary,
19 for your closing remarks.

20
21 And just go down the line this way, and
22 since I'm next to Rosemary.

23
24 I'm not going to apologize for a point
25 of order or putting a fellow Councilman down. I think
26 it wasn't a point of order on the subject matter that
27 was on hand. It was a point of order on an
28 individual's participation. That's all it was. So if
29 you took it the other way that I stopped you from
30 communicating with BLM, I did not do that. It was a
31 point of order because it was putting a fellow Council
32 member on the line. And I think that's not something
33 -- what our role is to be. We should uphold one
34 another, and I think you're going to have to take it
35 for what it's worth. And I completely accept your
36 explanation, and that's what it is.

37
38 As far as the meeting goes, I am still
39 concerned about the way that OSM and others have come
40 before and sometimes do not reflect our view. And I
41 see that periodically, and I think -- and I reflect on
42 those over time. And like I said, I try to express
43 from my heart, because, you know, I'm born up here, I
44 subsist here, and I do my best to represent all the
45 folks that are on the North Slope.

46
47 With that, I did enjoy all the dialogue
48 and the reports, and I hope to remain confident in your
49 support as we continue to meet as a Regional Advisory

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1 Council. We've had hardships in the past, and we've
2 suffered quite tremendously with lack of participation.
3 And I've always -- for the last 20 some years have
4 found this to be an important place to make sure our
5 subsistence needs are heard, our communities are heard,
6 and I do that probably with every fiber of my bone.
7 And that's where I close with my own closing remarks.
8

9 With that, I'm going to extend the
10 opportunity to Commissioner Shears -- or Councilman
11 Shears.
12

13 MR. SHEARS: I appreciate, you know,
14 all of you, Rosemary, Mr. Chairman. We bring a wide
15 range of varying skills and professional abilities to
16 the table. And, yeah, sometimes it's hard to
17 distinguish which hat we're wearing when we're up here.
18 But that's the way it should be. That's who we are as
19 individuals. I think everybody here is to represent
20 the over-riding mission, which is to protect
21 subsistence and our lifestyle up here.
22

23 Like I said in my introductory
24 comments, I've been severely disengaged from
25 subsistence activities, but I still enjoy the authority
26 of being able to sit here and protect, you know, our
27 right to subsistence, even though I'm not involved.
28

29 I really enjoyed sitting here this week
30 with you guys. I look forward to our next meeting in
31 August in Point Hope.
32

33 I don't have any further comments, Mr.
34 Chair.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
37 Shears. I'm going to move down to Esther from
38 Anaktuvuk.
39

40 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. At this time
41 I'll pass it to Jerry. I have a lot to say, but we
42 need help. We're hurting. And it's been too long.
43 TAPS been up since early 70s and we're still in the
44 same issue.
45

46 Thank you.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jerry.
49
50

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1 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Thank you. It's my
2 first meeting here with everybody that's on board and
3 I'm glad to be on with you all, and the concerns that's
4 been on the table and that's been, you know -- we need
5 to voice out seriously for our communities here on the
6 Slope.

7
8 And I do have one for the State and
9 Federal, that we do have allotments south of Anaktuvuk
10 Pass, and my aunts and uncles has allotments down
11 there, but they're not allowed to go down there during
12 the winter seasons. And I've attended a lot of round
13 table meetings there in our community to voice out also
14 on their behalf. You know, it's going to follow along
15 with their kids and their grandkids, and Nadrian
16 Alongrun (ph) -- one of them's going to eventually
17 speak up and said, did you guys fight for our rights to
18 go to our cabins? These are our grandfather's,
19 grandmother's allotments there. And it's been on the
20 table a long, long time, and they do have cabins there.
21 And during the summertime, they would want to go down
22 there and, you know, spend the summer down there. And
23 that hasn't happened yet, because we're, you know --
24 they've been fighting State and Federal, and it's -- I
25 want to see some changes here hopefully, and I know
26 it's not going to happen overnight. And it's the
27 voices that the State and Federal has here from our
28 region and our communities, which we will take
29 seriously. And the only time we get to go down there,
30 it's during the winter, springtime. And that's the
31 only time they go check on their cabins there, and they
32 do have cabins there. And their allotment. And as far
33 as building their cabins, that they were told to build
34 their cabins in a diameter, you know, which can be this
35 big or this small. It has to be a certain diameter.
36 And I'm not really found of that.

37
38 So hopefully, you know, we'll have this
39 addressed here, and it's been on the table too long.
40 And I'm proud to be -- you know, hear a lot of concerns
41 also from the outlying villages in our region.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 And I'm looking forward to go Point
46 Hope hopefully. I haven't been there.

47
48 Thanks, Steve.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Jerry.
2 With that, Eva, did you want to add something before we
3 adjourn.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
6 just wanted to touch base. Wanda Kippi is on line.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, we'll give you
9 the opportunity to provide your closing comments.

10
11 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Thank you,
12 Chief and our Council members. I just wanted to say I
13 enjoyed the past few days on line, on the phone, and
14 listening to all our speakers that we've had through
15 these past few days. And good information, good input.
16 And I just wanted to say that we join this group to
17 represent our communities and for us to be our whole
18 life to support our communities all together throughout
19 the North Slope. I just wanted to say that. (In
20 Inupiaq) I'm looking forward to going to Point Hope
21 this summer.

22
23 And until next time, until we meet
24 again.

25
26 Quyanana.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Very
29 good. So with that.....

30
31 MR. SHEARS: Motion to adjourn.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
34 I may, I'd just like to also respond to Rosemary's
35 concerns and all the concerns raised by the Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

38
39 MS. PATTON: That indeed this Council
40 is here to support the entire region and all the
41 communities in the region. And I want to recognize the
42 work and the difficulties of, you know, many difficult
43 things that come before the Council and the community.
44 And I just want to make sure that my role as a
45 coordinator to support each and every one of you as
46 well, and that you have a voice for your community, and
47 the ways that can help. We only meet twice a year.

48
49 I know it's a tremendous amount of
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1 information that comes before you and a lot of change
2 is happening on the North Slope that are very
3 concerning to many of the communities and your
4 subsistence way of life. So in any way to keep the
5 Council, you know, engaged throughout in between these
6 meetings, ways that I can help facilitate as well so
7 that each of you feel that you and your communities
8 have a voice and ways to engage with the agencies and
9 the strength of the Council to make recommendations
10 that would support each of your communities. So I just
11 wanted to add that.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Eva.
16 So very good words to abide by.

17
18 With that, I'll entertain a motion to
19 adjourn.

20
21 MR. SHEARS: So move.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
24 the floor to adjourn.

25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. And all
31 those that want to adjourn signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are adjourned.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 14th day of February in Utqiagvik, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th
day of February 2018.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18